

the chronicle

Weighty challenge proves big boost for injured soldiers

— see page 3



You've heard of the White Van Man – now meet light van man

— see page 8



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Spy camera pledge for subway at bus station

CENTRO have revealed that Stourbridge's main subway will undergo a complete makeover as part of the towns' £7 million project.

The new Stourbridge Interchange, which will replace the old bus station stands, will also see the existing adjacent subway through to the town centre partly demolished, rebuilt and re-aligned so that it emerges within the new concourse.

The underpass which will run from Foster Street will feature CCTV, improved lighting and new tiling. It will also lead into a new covered walkway which will provide a sheltered link to the rail station.

A Centro spokesman said: "The safety and well-being of passengers is paramount which is why CCTV and new lighting is being installed to ensure that people have as pleasant and as safe an environment as possible when using the subway and the interchange itself."

"The site will also feature help points and an internal public address system, plus toilets and an electronic passenger information boards which we are confident will ensure passengers using the interchange find it a positive experience."

Colourful night for flower club

"THIS colourful world" is the theme for the next meeting of Halesowen Flower Club when Janet James of Solihull is booked as demonstrator.

The club, with a thriving membership of over 100, is due to meet at the Shenstone Theatre in the town's Cornbow Centre on Thursday, February 10, at 7.30pm. The club meets on the second Thursday each month at the venue. Visitors are welcome and the cost is £3.50.

Mystery at pub's sudden closure

ABOUT 25 workers have lost their jobs after a Kingswinford pub mysteriously closed. Workers at the Mount Pleasant said they had been left "in limbo" by the sudden closure.

Marstons Brewery, which operates the pub in Cot Lane, declined to say what had happened to the previous tenant. But bosses said they were looking for a new person to take the helm.

Holocaust memorial

NEARLY 200 people gathered in Dudley to remember those who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Dudley College students organised the event at the Broadway campus last Friday to tie in with national Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorated on January 27 this year.



Volunteer funding co-ordinator Ruth Longville and helper Dave Walker with the new food bank bags

Food charity seeking support by the bagful

A HALESOWEN charity is appealing for businesses to help them out in a bid to raise much-needed funds.

Black Country Food Bank, based on Little Cornbow, provides emergency supplies for people in crisis through their network of distribution centres across the region.

The cash-strapped charity have recently stocked up on handy shopping bags in the hope of raising extra funds and need a presence in local shops.

Bags are organic, ethically produced and will retail for a minimum £2 donation, which will help the charity to continue its work.

Each one will be sold with a memo to jog shoppers' memories of things they might need while they are out.

The hope is that when people see the types of goods they need they will be inspired to pop an extra item in their shopping trolley to donate to the charity.

Ruth Longville, volunteer fundraising coordinator for Black Country Food Bank, said: "We think that we have got a great product, now we need local businesses to step forward and help us get our bags onto the high street."

"We are also appealing for basic supplies and are on the lookout for new collection points for donated goods."

"We know that there is a lot of good will amongst local businesses and would be interested in speaking to anyone who could help."

Emergency

In the past 12 months more than 5,000 people have been fed by Black Country Food Bank with free three-day emergency supplies.

The charity is run entirely by volunteers at their eight distribution centres, based in Halesowen, Netherton, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Walsall.

For more information email admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk or call 0121 448 8184.

Regis owners in talks to salvage service for elderly

HEARTBREAK AS DAY CARE AXED

By TIM SPIERS

tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk

DISCUSSIONS are under way as to whether a Black Country day care service for pensioners can be salvaged after the existing council-funded service was scrapped.

The Regis, on Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, catered for 30 elderly people every day, offering them a variety of activities, as well as hot drinks, meals and a chance to socialise.

Pensioners who use the service, most of them from Old Hill and Cradley Heath, will now be ferried five miles away to West Bromwich-based Manifolda Grange.

Regis owners Tony Billingham and Carole Jenkins say the move was a cost-cutting measure and that Manifolda Grange would offer people fewer activities, a claim Sandwell Council disputed.

Mr Billingham, who co-owns Halesowen-based care homes business-Carlton Care Group with Mrs Jenkins, said he hopes to continue the service as a private venture with his business partner.

He said the decision to close the current social services-led service at a week's notice came as a shock, as although the existing contract had expired they believed it would still run until March.

It left some people at the Regis in tears at the thought of having to travel to West Bromwich instead of staying in Old Hill.

"I was there the other day when

social services explained to the elderly people they would not be coming to The Regis any more and many of them were in tears," said Mr Billingham.

"One gentleman in his 90s thought I was someone from the council and said he did not know whether to shake my hand or wring my neck. This really took us by surprise."

Package

"A week's notice hasn't given us time to catch our breath; we knew the contract had expired but we didn't know for sure when it would close," he added.

Day care users at the Regis were picked up from their own homes and would spend around six hours chatting and taking part in activities such as

quizzes and sing-alongs. Mr Billingham said the service made a big difference to peoples' everyday lives and he would look into continuing it, although The Regis couldn't afford to run it voluntarily.

"It's at the stage of deciding whether it'll be just for elderly people, or for people suffering with dementia as well," he said.

"It's a big problem because it's difficult to combine the two and we'd need a lot more staff."

"We're taking advice and we'll make a decision soon."

He added that users would have to pay for the service themselves, although they may be able to receive direct payment from the council if an assessment proved they needed day care as part of an agreed social care package.

Sandwell Council had initially said

they wouldn't be continuing their partnership with the Regis on January 17.

Council cabinet member for adult social care, Councillor Linda Horton, said she believed Manifolda Grange would be able to offer a wide range of personalised activities to the pensioners.

"Some efficiencies will be achieved through loss of rental payments and staffing rationalisation by locating the day service within an existing service provision," Councillor Horton added.

"All day service users will be collected and transported to the new venue at no additional cost."

"There has been extensive consultation over several months with users of the day service."

"A letter to each individual day service user was sent out last week to formally confirm the service is transferring to Manifolda Grange."

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Sir revels in role as Ugly Sister at school



Glebefields Primary School pupils in Cinderella Rockerfella with Year 4 class teacher, Jake Bishop, as one of the Ugly Sisters

PUPILS at a Black Country primary school have been bringing a classic fairytale to life with a modern look at the school pantomime.

Youngsters at Glebefields Primary School in Tipton have been performing Cinderella Rockerfella and Jake Bishop, a Year 4 teacher, took the role of an Ugly Sister.

Kate Charles, deputy headteacher of the school in Sandgate Road, said it was the classic story with a modern twist. The prince is a rock star and Cinderella goes to the ball in a pink Cadillac rather than a carriage.

Motivation

New headteacher Penny Thompson played the Fairy Godmother who grants Cinderella's wish.

"We do a pantomime every year. In previous years we have done them before Christmas, but this last two years we have done it after Christmas and it works really well to give the children extra motivation," Mrs Charles said.

All the junior children – about 200 – all had a part, either singing or acting.

Tatters' bugles spark protests

COMPLAINTS over the noise of the traditional bugles used by rag-and-bone men in Dudley have shot up.

The council has received 25 complaints in less than three months, compared to just 16 between May and November last year.

This means the average number of complaints each month has increased from just over two to just over eight – four times as many.

Council bosses said officers were issuing warnings to tatters who break the rules, reminding them that the instruments are

banned. The increase in complaints follows a decision to classify the bugle as "noise disturbance".

Former scrap collector Jim Holland, who stood unsuccessfully as a Tory candidate in the 1992 General Election for Dudley East, said the bugle played an important role to those in the business.

"The bugle was always a good way of making people aware that you are in the area," he said.

"Once you start complaining about noise pollution, you could bring into question traffic, car horns and all kinds of sounds."

Grin and bear it, residents told over roadworks rat run protest

FURIOUS residents have failed in their year-long campaign to stop drivers using a rat run to avoid roadworks in Dudley.

No action will be taken at Oakham Road despite claims that lives are being put at risk. Locals say the street is clogged with cars during the morning and evening rush hours since major works began at Burnt Tree island.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell cabinet member for highways, said the issue was not a priority and residents would just have to wait until the roadworks were completed.

Sheila Jones, aged 62, of Oakham Road, said: "I can't believe nothing is being done

about this. We were under the impression that hopefully something would be done soon. Now we may as well give up."

Mrs Jones added: "The road is either so busy it's dangerous to cross, or the cars are speeding so fast you take your life in your hands."

Responsible

Campaigners say the increase in traffic is putting lives at risk.

A "speed visor", which flashes the number 30 when it detects a car is breaking the limit, has been erected.

But residents claim it has had no effect as drivers simply ignore it. They want speed cameras, road humps or chicanes to be installed. Sandwell Council is responsible

for any work that would be carried out on the road, rather than Dudley Council.

Councillor Rowley said: "The Burnt Tree works have caused problems on a lot of roads in the area and there's not a lot we can do."

"There are no plans to do any work on Oakham Road, and it's a case of residents having to wait until the roadworks are finished."

The £12.3 million scheme to install traffic lights on the A4123 Birmingham New Road at Burnt Tree and remove the island began in August 2009 and is expected to finish this summer.

Queues have also been building up in nearby streets including Dixons Green Road.

Laughter tour of venues by theatre group

A BLACK Country theatre group is taking its best-loved characters on the road next month for a comedy show tour.

Fizzog Theatre Company will launch its May Contain Nuts tour at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre, in Chester Road North, on March 3. They will be joined on all nights by comedienne Barbara Nice, who has appeared in both Phoenix Nights and Coronation Street.

Shows will also be held at Stourbridge Town Hall on March 4, Birmingham's Crescent Theatre on March 5, The Old Post Office, Wednesbury, on March 18 and Oldbury's Barlow Playhouse on March 24. The tour will conclude at the Hardwicke Theatre, Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank, on March 31 and April 1.

Lollicams help reduce speeding near schools

LOLLICAMS used by crossing wardens to film bad driving have helped to halve reports of speeding near schools in Dudley, council chiefs claim. Dudley Council was the first in the West Midlands to fit lollipop signs with hidden cameras so drivers who put crossing wardens, schoolchildren and parents in danger could be punished.

Two signs have been in use at unnamed sites since the start of the school year in September 2008. Council chiefs say the number of reported incidents in the 12 months prior to the introduction of the cameras was 14.

These have since reduced to eight and nine reports respectively over the two years. The authority is yet to bring in any prosecutions of drivers, but officials say the scheme is aimed mainly as a deterrent. Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "We are pleased to report that since the introduction of the cameras we are beginning to see a drop in the number of incidents involving crossing patrols near our schools in the borough."

"Anecdotally, individual patrols have commented on an improvement in driver behaviour since the introduction of the cameras and signage."

"They were introduced as a deterrent and have helped raise awareness of the highway laws to ensure the safety of all pedestrians, including school children."

"Primarily, the aim of the campaign is to make the highways safer for children to encourage more to walk to school safely."

Vertical

The cameras, which cost £1,000, are rotated on a regular basis to areas where there have been difficulties with drivers failing to obey highway laws.

The tiny cameras point in two directions and can capture car details including registration plates.

Footage is date and time stamped, but only viewed if an incident is reported.

The cameras record if the signs are vertical for 19 seconds, the time allowed for children to cross.

The cameras have also been used in Wyre Forest district and were trialled at Stourport High School in July last year.

Fresh deal for saxman Julian

A BRITAIN'S Got Talent runner-up is heading to Lichfield as part of a nationwide tour in March. Halesowen's smooth saxophone star Julian Smith, runner-up to Susan Boyle in 2009 final, will play the Lichfield Garrick on Saturday, March 5. The music teacher has now signed to Birmingham-based company Big Bear Music. He is set to feature at some of this year's summer festivals and is currently planning to record his first album for Big Bear.

Disruption alert over gas mains

RESIDENTS near a busy Stourbridge road are bracing themselves for traffic disruption when it is made one way for almost three weeks to allow gas mains replacement work to be carried out.

Drivers will only be able to access Worcester Street off the town centre's ring road between February 21 and March 11.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said: "We are replacing gas mains that runs the whole length of the road. The old metal mains are being replaced with a new plastic pipe and because of the position of

the pipe in the road we can't keep two lanes open."

The diversion route for northbound traffic is Heath Lane, Hagley Road, and Stourbridge ring road.

Residents in Heath Street fear many motorists will try to dodge the Heath Lane diversion by travelling along their narrow road to reach the town centre.

But Matt Ralph, licensee of the Shrubbery Cottage pub, in Heath Lane, said: "From my point of view it will bring more traffic past my pub and, hopefully more custom. It's a busy road, but is quite free flowing because you can't park."

Staff run like wind to aid birds



Trainee bird keeper Sam Grove keeps an eye the flamingos

FLAMINGOS at Dudley Zoo were nearly blown away as high winds buffeted the Black Country.

Zoo keepers were forced to herd the seven colourful birds inside to keep them from being swept away by the recent high winds which reached speeds of up to 25mph.

The zoo's head curator and "bird man" Matt Lewis, who lives on-site, said: "Although the flamingos wings have been clipped so they cannot fly, they can still glide, so we made the decision to put them in the internal enclosure until the winds had died down."

He said staff had been questioned by disappointed visitors to the attraction in Castle Hill, Dudley, who had hoped to see the flamingos outside.

"We did have some visitors ask why they were not on display, but when we explained the situation everyone was fine," he added.

The birds have now returned to their outdoor enclosure.

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Threat to vital help on debt problem

A THOUSAND residents in Sandwell will miss out on vital debt counselling if government funding is cut and jobs are lost, the boss of the borough's Citizens Advice Bureau has warned.

Counsellors are dealing with £40 million of debt in the borough every year and give advice to around 1,000 residents.

However, a third of workers at the Citizens Advice Bureau have now been issued with letters informing them they are at risk of redundancy.

John Davies, chief executive officer of the Sandwell bureau, has warned that hundreds of residents could sink into further debt if the posts are removed and they do not have access to specialist debt workers.

Redundancy

A total of five full-time workers, as well as two full-time and one part-time administration staff are expected to go in Sandwell if the government-funded Financial Inclusion Fund which pays for the posts is cut in March.

Out of 60 staff, 23 people have been sent letters asking them to consider redundancy.

Mr Davies said: "The Financial Inclusion Fund pay for a team of specialist debt workers who between them see 1,000 new people a year."

"Dealing with debt has been problematic for a good few years, but over the last two to three years they have dealt with on average around £40m a year."

Safari park proposals

AN African-themed coffee bar, children's play area and a picnic tent are the latest improvements planned at a Midland tourist attraction.

West Midland Safari Park in Bewdley has submitted proposals for the developments estimated to cost in the region of £80,000.

As part of the scheme an existing outdated Cine-dome at the park will be demolished and the coffee bar and children's play area built. Seating for around 100 people will also be installed around the bar area.

The development will be made out of wood and is designed to fit in with a replica £300,000 African village currently under construction at the park.

Right: Front, Barry Clarke, centre, Fred Austin; back from left, Ian Walden, John Madeley, and David Attwood from Dudley Rotary visited a cenotaph in France after helping raise money to erect the memorial



Rotarians help set up permanent memorial

A POIGNANT memorial to four heroic Second World War airmen who died in France has been erected with help from Rotarians in Dudley.

The airmen were returning from a bombing raid when their Bristol Beaufort was hit by German anti-aircraft fire over the city of Brest on the west coast of France on December 7, 1940.

All four crew on board – its Canadian pilot and three British colleagues – were killed.

The Rotary Club of Dudley has been twinned with the Rotary Club of Brest-Côte des Légendes, in Brittany, for the past 30 years.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the tragic flight, the French Rotarians asked the Black Country club help establish a permanent memorial to the fallen RAF crew. Research by the Dudley club has

unearthed relatives of one of the airmen. Now they are appealing for the public's help in tracing family for the other three.

Six Rotarians crossed the English Channel for the unveiling of the monument after contributing cash to it.

Village

It has been erected close to where the four airmen were buried in the French village of Hospital Camfrout.

The crew were Flying Officer Hugh Mussenden, aged 23, from Canada, Wireless Operator Air Gunner, Sergeant John Pratt, from Grangetown, Wales, and Pilot Officer George Brooks, from Sussex and Air Gunner Sergeant Tom Eede, 35, from Plymouth.

Weighty challenge boost for injured soldiers' fund

A FORMER Royal Marine is celebrating shedding the pounds after a diet driven by his desire to raise money for injured soldiers. Ex-commando Marty Phillips now enjoys nothing more than a good salad after putting a stop to fast food meals and up to six cans of lager a night.

The 54-year-old, of Colman Hill Avenue, Halesowen, began piling on the pounds after a knee injury ended his military career in 1975. Around 13 operations to his knees over the years left him struggling to do much exercise.

But after reaching 20st 12lb last September, Marty used the troops as his inspiration for starting a sponsored fitness kick.

He has lost 39lb – almost 3st – in five months through

dieting and cutting the booze and is on the way to meeting his target loss of 6st by September. Family and friends from his Cradley Heath weight loss group sponsored him in his mission and he has raised £1,018 in total for the Help Our Wounded charity, which helps wounded marines.

"When you see what these marines are going through in Afghanistan, you want to do anything you can to help out," he said.

"It was one of the loves of my life being in the marines and I'd wanted to be in the forces for as long as I can remember."

Quit

Marty joined up just after his 16th birthday in his native Liverpool but was discharged three years later when he was injured while on exercise.

The father-of-one did a variety of jobs before moving to the Black Country with his wife of 36 years, Cathy, and starting work as a flooring contractor.

"I never ate particularly healthily, I'd always be snacking and having a take-away," he said. "Plus I'd always have a few cans most nights."

"I also quit smoking four years ago and the combination of things just meant the weight piled on."



Marty in an XXXL T-shirt that used to fit him before he lost weight



Marty, aged 54, celebrates with salad after raising more than £1,000 during a sponsored slim

U-turn over closure of homes

RESIDENTS and staff at three Sandwell care homes set to be closed down have been told they will remain open for at least a year. Sandwell Council is searching for a private operator to take on Grafton Lodge in Oldbury, Greenhaven Resource Centre in West Bromwich and Glebefields Resource Centre in Tipton, after plans to axe them were suspended. A report on progress made to identify an alternative provider for care is due before the council in April.

Business grant now abolished

A FUND which has injected tens of millions of pounds into businesses throughout the West Midlands, safeguarding or creating thousands of jobs, over the years has been axed.

Doomed regional development agency Advantage West Midlands is no longer accepting applications for cash under the abolished Grant for Business Investment scheme.

Grants of between £10,000 and £2million were available to firms, predominantly in the manufacturing sector, looking to "create new jobs or safeguard existing ones which would otherwise be put at risk". They

were given to support expansion and investment by companies, providing between 15 and 35 per cent of the total revenue.

The scheme is being scrapped alongside the move to axe regional development agencies, giving out cash. The Government claims "exceptional cases" will still be considered.

A white paper announcing the decision states: "Grant for Business Investment will cease with the closure of the agencies."

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will, however, consider large scale cases on an exceptional basis.

Applying for home gets big shake-up

THE application process for a council house in Dudley has been overhauled as part of an attempt to tackle the borough's waiting lists.

Changes include cutting the target time for processing applications from eight weeks to two or three weeks by giving all new applicants an interview with a housing adviser rather than handing in a form.

The authority also wants to cut the amount of time a house is empty when someone moves out. Under the new system applicants will be able to view a vacant property and the housing manager will explain any works that will be carried out prior to moving in.

Currently applicants can view a property only once it is ready to move into.

The waiting list for a council house in the Dudley borough stands at 7,677 – including existing tenants looking to transfer to a new property. That is up from 7,098 last year.

There are 353 larger houses occupied by a single person.

Dudley Council says the aim of the review has been to find the most efficient way to help people find suitable housing.

It is the latest in a series of changes to the system including the introduction of a lettings service in 2008 to advertise available properties from the council and other social landlords.

Potholes reported

ALMOST 2,300 reports of potholes were sent in to Dudley Council in the first 10 months of last year – nearly 900 more than the same period in 2009.

At the end of October, 2010, the council had spent £1.036m of its £1.7million budget for pothole repairs and patching work done to roads across the borough. This works out to around £21 per square metre.

The council's highways department also received 468 claims for compensation compared with 305 the year before.

A report on Dudley Council website says the heavy snow at the start of last year affected the figures.

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Winter warmers offer for elderly

OLDER residents in Dudley are being urged to make sure they are keeping warm at home this winter.

Dudley Council is now encouraging pensioners and their families to make sure they are claiming the help that is available to heat up their houses.

Grants available include cold weather payments, winter fuel payments, as well as a range of home insulation and heating grants.

Financial assistance is also available from the council for home repairs and renovations and help with energy efficiency improvements.

Councillor Lesley Faulkner,

cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "All older people should be taking advantage of the benefits and grants to which they are entitled."

"There are a range of initiatives that can go a long way towards adequately heating homes in the winter months."

"The recent cold snap has highlighted how vital it is that we ensure that our older residents are keeping as warm as possible and are claiming all of the benefits and grants to which they are entitled."

Advice on home insulation and Dudley Council's energy advice line. Call 0800 29 22 679 for details.

Brother and sister admit meat hygiene offences in their shop

BROTHER and sister shopkeepers in Lye, near Stourbridge, have been ordered to pay more than £6,500 for a string of offences including leaving raw meat hanging above ready-to-eat salad.

Parveen Akhtar, aged 31, and her brother Mohammed Nazabuth, 26, admitted food hygiene breaches when they appeared before Halesowen magistrates.

Meat was discovered being hung above trays of salad in the walk-in chiller, posing a risk of contamination from dripping blood, the court heard.

The pair, trading as Lye Discount Store, in High Street, Lye, pleaded guilty to 10 joint offences. The charges were made fol-

lowing an inspection of the store by Dudley Council's environmental health officers in September 2009.

They found that the owners failed to keep the food premises and equipment clean and in good repair and condition. Food was not protected from a risk of contamination, and refuse was not stored hygienically. The store also failed to set up a food safety management system to combat infection risk.

Protect

The court heard that Akhtar, owner of the business, was absent for a period of time and had left her brother Mohammed Nazabuth in charge.

Nazabuth told the court that he did not understand what was required of him

during his sister's absence. The store has a butchery section and also sells food and grocery.

Akhtar was fined £4,000 with £1,800 costs and Nazabuth was fined £500 with £250 costs. The 10 charges they faced included failing to keep articles, fittings and equipment with which food comes into contact clean and in good repair and condition.

Dudley cabinet member Councillor David Stanley said: "This prosecution shows we have a legal duty to protect members of the public."

The results of food hygiene inspections undertaken in the Dudley borough are published at www.dudley.gov.uk/scoresonthedoor, he added.

Invite to future foster parents

PEOPLE who are interested in fostering a child were offered the chance to find out more at an informal information evening in Sandwell this week.

The Sandwell Fostering Team works with 140 families looking after borough children and 50 more families are needed to come forward and foster.

On Thursday, February 3, people were invited to find out about fostering and becoming a carer by talking to members of the team. The drop-in session was being held between 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Crystal House, Crystal Drive, Sandwell Business Park, Smethwick.

Possible

Fostering service manager Rachel Gillott said: "Anyone can apply to become a foster carer as long as they have a spare bedroom and can offer children a safe and caring home."

"What is important is that people have the qualities and skills needed to look after children in care."

Sandwell's cabinet member for children and young people Councillor Bob Badham said: "Foster carers play a vital role in giving children in care the best possible start in life."

"We are always on the look out for new foster carers and urge people to come forward and find out more."

Tenants' cancer advice

FREE cancer prevention advice sessions are being set up in Sandwell.

Sandwell Homes is working with Cancer Research UK to offer residents advice sessions, health checks and tests.

Clinics will be held from 1am-1pm at Sandwell Council House on February 9 and Blackheath Housing Service Centre on February 16.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are committed to improving the wellbeing of our residents where possible and recognise that what we do is about more than just bricks and mortar."

Cricket books to aid new students

A COLLECTION of cricket books, manuals and history guides, which belonged to a former Dudley headteacher have been donated by his family to help educate future generations.

John Read, who died in 1996, was head of Jessons CE Primary, in School Street, for more than 20 years, having devoted his working life to education.

An avid cricket fan, the headmaster collected a number of books on the sport during his life, including Wisden reference guides and books about Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

Excellent

Now his family have decided to give the collection to the University of Worcester in his memory.

Nephew Clive Read said: "His love of learning and of making a difference was matched by his love of sport, especially cricket, and his lifelong following of Worcestershire CCC."

Colleagues could rely on my uncle if they ever wanted to know the close-of-play scores and scorecard at New Road."

The University of Worcester is establishing an international cricket degree.

Mick Donovan, head of the university's institute of sport and exercise science, said: "To be able to offer the students the opportunity to utilise the excellent collection of texts that have been so kindly donated gives the course an even bigger boost."

Some of Mr Read's collection of 50 books are signed, and there are nine Wisden Almanacs.

Heart girl's parents so grateful to school staff

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl has had a heart transplant after staff saved her life when she collapsed at her school in Halesowen.

The parents of Jasmine Page, from Halesowen, today praised a senior teacher, secretary and other administration staff at Windsor High School, who used first aid training to massage her heart and keep her alive until an ambulance arrived.



Transplant op - Jasmine Page

Her father Andy Page, aged 45, an IT manager, said: "What the school staff did in those four minutes saved her life."

Jasmine is now the first youngster to receive a heart transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Medics decided it was safer to carry the transplant out in Birmingham, rather than at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Jasmine, who was diagnosed with a complex heart condition at the age of three, was being given her daily medication by a teacher when she collapsed. He laid her on the floor, while a secretary rushed over to start heart massage with other members of her team.

Jasmine was taken by ambulance to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, and then to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Jasmine, niece of television presenter Alison Hammond, went straight to the top of the transplant list because of her heart failure.

Surprised

Jasmine's mother, Sandra, aged 44, said: "She now has two birthdays and a new lease of life."

The family were hoping that the youngster would wake up within a couple of days of her operation after being sedated.

Mr Page said: "When she comes round and we tell her she's in Birmingham Children's Hospital, she's had a heart transplant, she's going to be surprised and elated."

Keith Sorrell, Jasmine's headteacher, said: "I am extremely proud of the response of my staff to this emergency."

School question time for Tory



Stourbridge MP Margot James and head boy Simon Phipps, aged 15, at Pedmore Technology College in Stourbridge where pupils got to quiz her

TEENAGERS were given the chance to quiz Stourbridge MP Margot James on issues ranging from NHS reforms to the Iraq War.

Year 11 citizenship students at Pedmore Technology College invited the Tory MP to listen to their presentations for a class project.

The pupils have been arguing the pros and cons on changing the voting age from 18 to 16.

Ms James said: "I really enjoyed the visit to Pedmore Technology College and discussing the lowering of the voting age to 16."

"I found their arguments very persuasive and I felt I could understand both sides of the argument."

The students had been collecting names for a petition as part of the project which the MP who was first elected last May, took away with her.

Facebook friends flourish

SANDWELL Council has attracted more than 500 friends on internet site Facebook in two months.

Since launching in the final week of November last year, www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil has gained 509 members.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "The Facebook page has proved

really popular and to gain more than 500 fans in two months is great. It's a great, free way for the council to keep in touch with residents."

"Not only do we use it to tell people about events, news and council services, it also gives residents a chance to ask questions and raise issues with the

council," Councillor Cooper added.

Residents can "like" the Facebook page to receive updates from the authority automatically. And people can also follow updates via the council's Twitter account, www.twitter.com/sandwellcouncil, which has more than 1,650 followers.

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Tribute to extrovert who loved village life

A MIDLAND businessman who shared his time between community work and running his own nationwide firm has died, aged 74.

Brian Morrell, of Church View Gardens, Kinver, was technical director of Chemicals for Industry, which he set up in 1992.

He was also chairman of Kinver Film Society and helped run Woodfield Social and Sports Club in Wolverhampton.

His wife of 28 years, Gill, said: "Everyone will remem-

ber him as a person who was great fun to be with. He was a bit of an extrovert."

Mr Morrell started the company, which supplied specialist chemicals to the manufacturing industry, with two other colleagues.

Restoration

Though he worked from home, the production and packaging of the chemicals was carried out at hubs in Lyng, West Bromwich and Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Mr Morrell retired in 2001 and devoted his time to hobbies and voluntary work.

His time on the management committee at Woodfield Social and Sports Club in Woodfield Avenue saw him organise snooker tournaments and other events.

Mr Morrell was also chairman of Kinver Film Society for eight years and carried out restoration work on Kinver Edge.

Mr Morrell, who also leaves a son, Peter, aged 42 and daughter Suzanne, 40, and stepdaughters Jane, 44, and Joanna, 42, died on January 7. His funeral was held last week at Stourbridge Crematorium.



Brian Morrell in 2000

Region is 'too reliant' on public sector jobs

THE West Midlands is still too reliant on the public sector for jobs and is spending too much on welfare, a survey has revealed.

Economic recovery will be "unevenly spread" across the country according to research group Centre for Cities.

The study revealed more than one in three jobs in private companies were provided in 11 of Britain's major cities - Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Sheffield, Nottingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Leeds.

But Birmingham is among the 10 cities with the highest percentage of working age population without any formal qualifications. The report says it is primarily due to the lack of graduate level jobs leading. And

it is spending 26 per cent of what its economy makes on welfare - a total of £7bn a year or £3,041 per person. Only Glasgow and Liverpool spends more on welfare per person.

The Black Country now has a Local Enterprise Partnership and last week submitted four bids for a total of £20 million of funding to create or safeguard more than 11,000 jobs.

They include a request for £2m from the government towards a £46.5m plan to revitalise the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo in a combined project with Dudley Canals Trust, which will create 193 jobs and provide new visitor arrival facilities.

Alexandra Jones, chief executive of the Centre for Cities, said booming cities are the ones providing private sector jobs.

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Push to get new people in saddle

A CYCLING club from Stourbridge is in a spin as they prepare to get on their bikes for this year's big cycle challenge.

Stourbug (Stourbug), launched their 2011 40-mile event on January 21.

At a follow-up meeting on Monday at The Broadway Pub, The Broadway, Norton, members were told training would commence this month.

Celebrating national bike week, the event will start and finish in Stourbridge, on Saturday June 18. It is open to all abilities and anyone over the aged of 18 can register.

Stourbug chairman, Russell Eden, said: "Historically our annual challenge has been for ladies only, but this year we have opened up the challenge to men and women.

Newcomers

"Lots of people have a secret yearning to cycle but don't know where to start, how to start or even where to go. Joining the Stourbug challenge removes those barriers.

"Our current members had all faced the same quandary, but are now experienced enough to guide newcomers to cycling and pass on their knowledge."

Since Stourbug started in 2007, more than 130 cycling novices have taken on the challenge every year. Most continue to ride regularly, and a number have peddled a life-changing 5,000 miles or more. To find out more, visit www.stourbug.org.uk or register your interest at info@stourbug.org.uk.

Jail for pair who threw guns from car in chase

TWO men have been jailed after sawn-off shotguns were thrown from a car as it led police on a high-speed chase through the Black Country.

A hunting knife, two swords in holders and a balaclava were also found in the car which reached speeds of 70mph during the five-mile chase.

One of the men in the car had been asked by a drug dealer to get rid of the weapons, the court was told.

But police began to follow the car when

officers on routine patrol noticed the men inside acting suspiciously.

Andrew Twist, aged 29, of Foxdale Drive, Brierley Hill, and Steven Mills, 31, of Marigold Crescent, Dudley, were sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

A third man Declan Phipps, 28, of Bank Street, Brierley Hill, was convicted of going equipped for a theft or burglary by a jury and was last jailed for 16 months the previous week. The court heard the bag containing two sawn-off shotguns had been thrown from a car being driven by Twist at the end of the high-speed chase in Brierley Hill.

The bag had been found and a sawn-off 12-bore Beretta shotgun and a partially reactivated 12-bore Mossberg found inside. A glove belonging to Phipps was found in the car, the court heard.

Judge John Warner jailed Twist for a total of three years and nine months for two counts of possession of a firearm and for three months to run concurrently for dangerous driving. He admitted the offences at an earlier hearing.

Possession

He was also sentenced to five years for an unrelated matter of possession with intent to supply heroin making his total jail time eight years and nine months. He had denied the heroin charge.

Mills was jailed for 33 months for the firearms offences and six months for an unrelated matter of taking a car. He had admitted the firearms offence and been convicted after a trial on the vehicle charge. He was also sentenced to an additional nine months for breaching a suspended sentence.

Mr Philip Brunt, defending Twist, said his client was acting on behalf of someone else.

Group hopes cash is in the can

ALITTER campaign group from Stourbridge are hoping to raise bags of cash for charity. Volunteers of TidyStourbridge will separate aluminium cans collected from the streets of the town and give their cash value to Breast Cancer charities. One tonne of cans amounts to approximately £800, a sum that the group is hoping local residents will help them hit. The group, which also hosts Pick'n'Pint every month, will be holding their next litter pick on February 6, from 2pm, at the Queensway, Wollescote.

Graham's cameo sealed with a kiss

A BLACK Country canal expert is making a cameo appearance on BBC television show Escape to the Country.

Graham Fisher MBE, of Kingswinford, takes the shows presenter Alistair Appleton on a tour of Dudley's limestone caverns.

Mr Fisher is a broadcaster and author who has recently published a book on the union between the development of canals and the glass industry in Stourbridge.

He said the home-seekers in the programme were intrigued about what the

Black Country has to offer. Mr Fisher said: "There are a lot of things in the area that people don't appreciate. We have some of the best waterways in the world."

Mr Fisher is also due to feature on a future episode of Countryfile. After the filming he cherished a film from show presenter Julia Bradbury as one of the best awards he has ever received for his work.

Escape to the Country, due to air today at 2.15pm, helps people realise their country home dreams by showing them a number of different properties.

Norma's sad farewell to shop



Worker Tracy Stanford and Norma Griffiths enjoy a last cuppa before the closure of Norma's Cosmetics which has been in business for 29 years

SHOPKEEPER Norma Griffiths bid a fond farewell to loyal customers when she closed her Black Country cosmetics store after nearly 30 years.

Mrs Griffiths, aged 61, sold her last lipstick on Saturday at Norma's Cosmetics, which she has run in the Crown Centre, Stourbridge, for the last 29 years. She said it had been a difficult decision to make but felt the time was right to retire.

Mrs Griffiths said planned improvements to the Crown Centre would mean moving the business for a second time and she did not want to go through the upheaval again. It transferred from its original home in Spencer's Market to a vacant shop nearby in the Crown Centre when the

market closed in 2008. The closure will leave just a single store trading in the centre, the Cool Trader shop which sells frozen food.

"I am a bit long in the tooth to move everything again. It just feels like the right time to call it a day," she said.

Changed

"One lady was in tears and I had to take her into the back. The people of Stourbridge have been wonderful and I'll miss them deeply. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me."

Mrs Griffiths added: "Stourbridge has changed. I really hope Tesco is the right thing for the town and does not drive smaller firms out of business."

Diving in for a deal

SANDWELL Leisure Trust, in partnership with local clubs, has a huge range of swimming activities to try this February.

Everything from learn-to-swim sessions, triathlon training, life-guard skills, swimming teaching skills, water polo and snorkelling will be available at swimming centres across the borough.

Adults can also take advantage of 'two for one' on public swimming sessions, and they can also learn more about developing a career in life-guarding and swimming teaching.

Further details are available from Sandwell Leisure Trust website www.slt-leisure.co.uk or by calling 0845 659 4815.

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Search for ghostly goings-on

AGHOST club, which has investigated reports of paranormal activity across the West Midlands for more than two decades, wants to hear about haunting experiences.

The West Midlands Ghost Club, which has been running since 1989, is on the lookout for sites of interest for future investigations.

Group member John Conway said: "The West Midlands Ghost Club would like to hear from people who believe that they have had a paranor-

mal experience in the West Midlands, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, or immediate surrounding areas. We are currently looking for sites of interest for future investigations. All information received will be treated with utmost discretion if required."

Since it was founded 21 years ago the club has investigated alleged ghostly goings-on throughout the region. For more information email wmgghostclub@yahoo.co.uk or call 07944 478708.

Heathens search for new season sponsor

Phone mast appeal cut off

RESIDENTS in Stourbridge are celebrating after defeating plans for a phone mast following a year-long fight.

Government planning chiefs have rejected the proposals for Wollaston saying the 49ft structure would be a blot on the landscape.

Nearly 600 people protested and campaign leaders said they were "delighted" with the decision. They had raised fears over the size of the mast and potential health risks.

An appeal was submitted by telecommunications giant O2 but has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

The plan for a mast on a traffic island between Kingsway and Kent Road would have been "completely out of scale with the surrounding area", the inspector said.

Residents said they were pleased to have won after other campaigns against phone masts failed, including one in Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge.



Celebrating success are, from left, resident Tracey Baynam and daughter Kelly, with other campaigners Nikki Hadlington and Michelle Everall, front

SPONSORS are needed to help boost the coffers of a Black Country speedway team.

Dudley Heathens are appealing to businesses and individuals to work alongside their existing sponsors for the forthcoming season.

The National League speedway club, born from the ashes of the old Cradley Heathens, have an opportunity on their 2011 racejacket for a name or logo.

Club bosses are keen to build on the successes after they finished joint top of the league in their first season since they were reformed.

Heathens' chairman Nigel Pearson said: "This is a golden opportunity for a business or individual to put their name on the famous club colours."

Transport

"It's something which, in comparison to other sports, doesn't cost much and the return in terms of exposure is superb. We are happy to talk to anybody interested."

Heathens will be staging their home meetings at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium in this coming campaign as they continue their bid to relocate to the Dudley or Cradley area.

Heathens rider Tom Perry, aged 17, who won the Rider of the Year award last year is also on the lookout for someone to supply him with a van to transport his bike to meetings.

The club is available on 07717 242957 or email: info@dudley-speedway.co.uk

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Limbering up for the festive flab fitness campaign

ANYONE who over-indulged in mince pies and turkey over the festive season is urged to sign up for a beginner's exercise programme at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

Rangers there have designed a weekly itinerary consisting of a variety of gentle exercises, such as stretching and walking.

The free scheme is part of Dudley Council's Healthy Towns initiative and classes will also be held at parks in Halesowen and Dudley.

Mary Stevens Park hosted its first session last Thursday.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "Our hub-based activities are one of many ways in which residents can get involved with the healthy towns campaign."

"Mary Stevens Park is a beautiful place to take in fresh air and exercise and as it doesn't cost a penny to participate, I'm sure lots of people will join in with the fun."

There is no need to pre-book and participants are asked to meet at the hub building, off the park's Stanley Road entrance.

Nordic

Other regular classes running at Mary Stevens Park include health walks, abs and arms, green fit, beginners running, running club, family netball, gym circuits, after school club and Nordic walking.

For more information on what's available, call park rangers Mary Spiers on 07584 581283 and Nicola Cranshaw on 0758 458 1289.

Details of other sessions are available at the www.dudley.gov.uk/healthytowns website.



Park rangers Nicola Cranshaw, front, and Mary Spiers prepare for the new classes at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

Countdown to opening at new super campus

THE first pupils will move into a new £30 million Black Country super school on February 28, it has been announced.

The creation of the Rowley Learning Campus, which will see two schools and a pupil referral unit move on to a site in Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, is almost complete.

And the first 200 of the 1,650 students and staff will move in at the end of February once the site is handed over to the

council on February 25. The remaining pupils will move into the school on June 6.

Youngsters from Westminster School, currently in Westminster Road, West Bromwich, and the Whitehead Pupil Referral Unit in Throne Road, Rowley Regis will be the first at the site.

Science

They will be followed in the summer by students and staff from St Michael's Business Enterprise College also in Throne Road. Project manager Steve Bull, of

Sandwell Futures, said: "Part of it is due to be completed on February 25 and the school will take occupation from the Monday."

The £23 million revamp of Alexandra High School in Tipton is going ahead despite the coalition cuts.

The first phase of works will include building a new three-storey science facility on the site of an existing car park.

A new reception area and business centre will greet visitors on completion, which is due by January next year.

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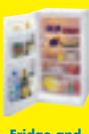
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Vintage – how the rare Stevens three-wheeled van would have looked originally



Tight fit – the vintage vehicle squeezes into a modern van



Demolishing part of the barn in Scotland in order to get at the Stevens van

Enthusiast to be light van man as a bit of history comes home



David Spruce from Stourbridge who is restoring a 1932 Stevens Brothers van

VINTAGE bike enthusiast David Spruce is about to embark on an 18-month labour of love to restore a rare Wolverhampton-built three-wheeler light van to its former glory.

David, from Stourbridge, travelled all the way to northern Scotland to rescue the dilapidated Stevens Light Commercial van and bring it 'home' to the West Midlands.

The vehicle, which is basically a motorcycle at the front and van at the back, was made in 1932 as the Stevens brothers attempted to get their Wolverhampton manufacturing business back on track following the collapse of their firm AJS the previous year.

Depression

The brothers' business went into liquidation and was subsequently sold following the Wall Street Crash and the resulting depression.

As a result they were unable to use the AJS name when they returned to manufacturing and the light van was badged as a Stevens Brothers vehicle.

The Light Commercial was a successful product in its day with around 500 being made at the brothers' Retreat Street works.

But only a handful have survived and there



Rescued from a Scottish barn, a piece of motoring history has now been returned to its roots.
PETER CARROLL reports

are thought to be only around half a dozen similar vehicles remaining, with most in foreign ownership.

So when self-employed lorry driver David, of Thicknall Drive, saw the rare Stevens on ebay he immediately made an offer of £1,000 for it.

The owner wanted to hold out for more cash, however, and must have been disappointed when David won the auction with the price at a price of just over £400.

He and a pal subsequently made a near 800-mile return trip to a remote farm near Brora to pick up the Stevens – only to find it was at the back of a barn and they couldn't get it out.

"It was in a terrible, shocking state when we found it and it seems that it had just lain there for nearly 60 years," he said.

"It was stuck at the back of the barn and we couldn't get to it."

Eventually he was given permission to demolish part of the barn in order to remove the vintage vehicle.

"The barn was due to be demolished anyway so I don't think they minded too much.

"The whole job took all afternoon – and then we thought we weren't going to be able to get into our van but it just fitted in."

The Stevens is now in David's workshop and he plans to start the restoration process by fabricating a new chassis.

He has already had a stroke of luck in securing a Stevens engine from a similar van of around that vintage.

Friends

He intends to do as much of the work as possible and can draw on help from friends who are fellow members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club.

David, who is aged 43 and married, hopes to complete the restoration in time to show off the Stevens in the summer of 2012.

In the meantime, he is trying to uncover more of the history of the light van – and what it was doing in northern Scotland.

"We found a milk churn in the barn so we think it might have been an early milk float," he said.

When the restoration is complete the Stevens will look similar to another model which is currently owned by the Black Country Living Museum.

"They have already expressed an interest in it but they've already got one so I'll be keeping this one for myself."

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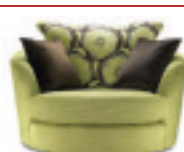
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Parade boosted by gift of cash

A DRIVE to raise £10,000 for the St George's Day event in Sandwell has received a £2,000 boost.

Organisers have been given a £2,000 donation from English heritage group Steadfast Trust towards the running costs of the event, to be held on April 24 this year. Mark Cowles, of Stone Cross St George Association, which organises the event, said the amount would be added to £700 already been raised for this year's event at Yew Tree Social Club.

The money pot will cover the bill for stewards, PA systems, stages, enclosures and meeting the council's charge for closing roads.

Mr Cowles, aged 37, said: "We're endeavouring to raise £10,000 and we're very thankful for the donation from Steadfast Trust."

A fundraiser will be held on February 26 at the Stone Cross pub on Walsall Road in West Bromwich to help drum up money for the parade.

Coventry band Priddy Green will play their indie and mod tunes from 7.30pm, followed by resident DJ John Salisbury till late. Admission will be £3.

In 2009 the parade was saved with a donation from West Bromwich businessman Chris Kelly, of transport firm Keltruck.

Anyone who has donations towards the event should email stgeorgeparade@aol.com

Rebuild's just the ticket for bus HQ



Above: How it is – contractors Terry McDonald and Andy Robinson on the site now



Left: How it was – the old Stourbridge bus station before it was demolished



Below: How it will be – a computer generated image

FORMER bus stands and a large retaining wall at Stourbridge bus station have been reduced to rubble to await a £7 million replacement complex.

The debris will be crushed and re-used to form the base of the new building in Foster Street East.

Work will start on the foundations for the new bus station in weeks once work is completed to replace the old subway. Lighting will also be improved during the project to create a "transport hub", improving links between the bus station and Stourbridge Town rail station.

Project manager Andy Robinson, of construction firm Interserve, said the building work was on track to be completed by the end of the year.

"The project is going well. We are just finishing all the demolition and preparatory work before the main construction works begins."

Demand

The Stourbridge Interchange, due to open in early 2012, will include a shop, improved concourse and electronic passenger timetable boards. CCTV, help points and a public address system will also be installed.

A free shuttle bus service, which has been operating since the old station closed in October, has been extended due to popular demand.

Around 300 people a day have been using the service, prompting transport chiefs to extend it until April 23 when they will again look at numbers again to see if it is worth continuing.

Temporary bus stops have been installed in Birmingham Street, High Street, Market Street and Parkfield Road.

The shuttle bus operates 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

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thechronicle

Landlord Jim pulls his final pint



Jim Gogarty with chef and fiancée Kim Bastable



Jim with his granddaughter Lacey Mae Williams



Final farewell - Jim and Kim with other regulars

A POPULAR pub landlord has pulled his last pint at the South Staffordshire pub he has run for eight years after losing his life savings in the dream venture that turned into a nightmare.

Jim Gogarty has been forced to call time at the Mount Pleasant pub in Wombourne after dwindling customer numbers dented his profits.

The 62-year-old has run the Ounsdale Road pub with fiancée Kim since 2002 after leaving his well-paid job as sales manager with a stationery company. But he has been

forced to throw in the towel after suffering financial difficulties and stress, with more and more people opting to stay at home rather than going out to the pub. Regulars flocked to the pub for the final leaving party. Among them was Nigel McGookin, who has been a regular at the pub for the past five years.

Sombre

The 56-year-old, from Bumblehole Meadows in Wombourne, said: "You couldn't wish for a better pub and it is all down to Jim and Kim. It is a shame they are going. The party was slightly sombre

with it being their last night, but it was still a lovely atmosphere. We were celebrating their time here."

Mr McGookin, managing director of Fibrecheck Ltd in Wombourne, added: "Hopefully the new people will carry on with their good work."

The pub will now be passed back to brewery Punch Taverns with 17 part-time staff in limbo until a new landlord is found. Punch Taverns has appointed a temporary manager to keep the pub open while a permanent replacement is recruited.

Anyone interested in taking over the pub should call 0844 848 3279.

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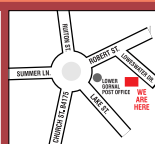
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Record numbers of horses roam streets

Travel boss cooks up a winner

A TRAVEL agent boss from Cradley Heath cooked up a winning recipe in a food competition.

Elaine Nicholson, aged 26, of Clairemont Street, fought off stiff competition at the Agent Masterchef contest aimed at travel agents, run by Travel Weekly and Bourne Leisure at Thoresby Hall Hotel and Spa in Nottingham.

The manager of the Halesowen branch of The Midlands Co-operative Travel, had only one day to think of a 'British dish with a twist' after a colleague dropped out of the cooking competition.

She entered with a dish of pork fillets with apple and raisin compote and savoy cabbage with a cider cream sauce, and to her surprise got through to the final.

Miss Nicholson said: "I tried to be traditional, so thought of doing pork, and everyone knows that apple goes with pork so I used a compote and the cider cream sauce to add a twist."

On the day of the competition, the three finalists spent the day with the head chef at the hotel and learnt how to make authentic pizza. Later they cooked their dishes in the professional kitchen at the hotel and were judged by a panel of three judges.

Praised by the judges for her creativity and delicate balance of flavours, Elaine,



Halesowen travel agent Elaine Nicholson proudly shows her Masterchef certificate

who had only cooked her dish once before, won the competition and the prize of a meal for two at one of Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurants.

Menu

She said: "I was gobsmacked, I never expected it. My jaw hit the floor when they said my name." The

head chef was so impressed by her dish that it is now featured on the menu at Thoresby Hall Hotel.

Miss Nicholson admits that she is nowhere near a professional chef, and enjoys baking rather than cooking main meals. She said: "To do something so out of my comfort zone, I'm just so proud of myself."

MORE than 400 reports of stray horses roaming the streets have been received by Dudley Council in just under a month, an increase that has been described as unprecedented by the authority.

A total of 414 reports have been logged during January compared with 43 during the same month in 2010.

It follows complaints about stray horses causing havoc by trampling gardens and running in front of cars on the Russells Hall estate and in Pensnett and Brierley Hill.

St James's ward councillor Malcolm Davis, who has received complaints from people living on the Russells Hall estate, said today he believed the surge in sightings was due to horse owners no longer being able to afford to keep their animals because of the credit crunch.

"People are fed up of these horses trampling their gardens and causing damage to their homes," he said.

"It is getting beyond a joke. We have more horses in Russells Hall than ever before. People can't afford to keep and feed them."

Complaints

Last Friday five horses were seen near the Asda store in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, while the day before a group of 10 horses were grazing on a green off Orchard Street in Brockmoor.

The same day, horses caused a nuisance as they wandered along Shakespeare Road, Tipton, holding up motorists and eating rubbish from bin bags.

Walsall and Dudley councils have vowed to team up to tackle the issue following a barrage of complaints from residents.

Dudley Council is also working with the RSPCA and police to find a long-term solution. It currently pays an outside agency £20,400 a year to impound horses and in 2009/10, a dozen were captured.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "While we don't have a reactive service we can direct our enforcement agency to take action to impound the horses as our ultimate sanction."

"However, the problem of illegally grazing and stray horses has seen an unprecedented increase recently."

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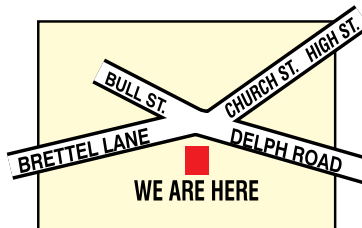
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thechronicle

Tax bills mounting in battle to halt mosque

Leisure centre is top knee joint

A CUSTOMER at Haden Hill Leisure Centre says regular exercise is helping her prepare for surgery.

Marion Jones said: "I have been a Gold member for a few weeks now and I always look forward to my visits to the gym, and especially the Thursday morning Aquafit session.

"I will be having knee replacement surgery in 2012, so I decided to get fit and slim. Reducing my calorie intake and exercise are getting me towards my goal.

Recovery

"I have my own business, which can be extremely stressful, but I know that Natalie the instructor's Aquafit session will be heaps of fun and hard work.

"No matter how wet and windy the weather is, I never miss a session and I recommend her session to anyone.

"I really enjoy using the gym as the advice I was given is really helping me to build up my leg muscles in preparation for my surgery and the weight loss will ensure a good recovery."

Further details are available on the www.slt-leisure.co.uk website. Haden Hill Leisure Centre is a Sandwell Leisure Trust facility in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.



Marion Jones at Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Cradley Heath

THE legal battle to halt plans for a new mosque in Dudley has already cost taxpayers more than £58,000, new figures reveal.

Meanwhile Muslim leaders have announced they will be scaling down their proposals for the building in Hall Street, near the town centre.

The bill for legal fees between February 2007 and December 2010 includes a battle at the High Court in July 2009.

At that hearing, Dudley Council bosses unsuccessfully appealed against a decision by the Planning Inspectorate to grant the mosque project outline planning permission.

Councillor Les Jones said the bill of £58,378.50 was one the council "could do without", but the legal action had been necessary.

"We obviously don't want to spend any more money than we have to and we are trying to minimise costs," he said.

"But when you take legal action, there will be a cost and unfortunately it is money that has no return."

Overturned

Outline plans for the new mosque and community training and enterprise centre were rejected by Dudley Council but overturned by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. A High Court judge overturned an appeal against the decision by Dudley Council but ruled the Dudley Muslim Association must submit a full planning application by July 2011.

The council is now preparing a High Court case in a bid to buy back the land earmarked for the mosque, citing a clause in the land contract which meant the building had to be substantially completed by the end of 2008.

Chairman of the Muslim association Kurshid Ahmed said: "The project is being downscaled but the final shape of the building has yet to be decided."

Almost 60,000 people have signed petitions opposing the mosque. Reasons given include concerns over traffic.

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It's double trouble in mail mix-up for estate homes

Business is celebrating success

A FIRM which has been at the heart of Black Country industry for 60 years has fought the recession to increase export sales by 150 per cent.

For decades AJT Equipment has been making a name for itself producing test machines for a variety of tools and equipment.

The products made in the factory in Brockmoor have ended up at all corners of the world.

Some of the machines have been used to test the impact of stress on equipment such as oil pipes.

Director Ian Gordon, aged 43, said the firm had come out of the latest recession fighting and was on track to have one of its best-ever trading years with export sales up by 150 per cent, from £330,000 to £820,000. The firm exports to countries including Russia, India and Australia, Spain and Nigeria.

Mr Gordon began working for the company at the Premier Partnership Estate in The Leys, as an apprentice aged 17. The company now employs 13 people and to celebrate the 60th anniversary it will hold an open day on April 21.

Manager Julie Parry, aged 39, said: "We want to give people the chance to see what we do. We will be inviting our customers, suppliers and anyone else interested in finding out more about AJT Equipment."



Director Ian Gordon, of Oldswinford, with the firm's manager Julie Parry of Stourbridge



Stan Heather, of High Street, Princes End, Tipton, keeps getting the wrong post

BILLS and documents meant for families in part of Tipton are not reaching their destination because a new housing estate features a road with the same name.

Residents in High Street, Princes End, say ever since the nearby Neptune Park housing estate, which features another road called High Street, was built two years ago, post is being sent to the wrong address.

Mother-of-four Gail Carr, aged 43, has lived in the older High Street for the past 25 years and said the problem had got worse recently.

Problem

She said: "I'm getting other people's statements and cheque books all the time. And if I'm getting their post, they could be getting mine. I've been giving the post back to the postman and he's told me it's happening a lot."

Grandfather-of-six Stan Heather, aged 67, who has lived in the old High Street with his wife Pamela for the past 35 years, said: "We have had this problem for the past two years and it's hassle we don't need."

A Royal Mail spokesman said: "When the new estate was first built there were some misdelivery problems as a result of these similar addresses and they were resolved. The local delivery manager is not aware of any further ongoing problems except for a couple of isolated incidents."

Delivery problems should be reported on 0121 480 7860.

Gambler fails in bid to avoid US murder hearing

A PROFESSIONAL gambler from Kidderminster accused of killing his wife and dumping her body in an American national park will be extradited to the USA to stand trial.

Marcus Bebb-Jones, who denies murdering his 31-year-old wife Sabrina in Colorado, could now face the death penalty, if convicted, after losing an appeal at London's High Court.

Home Office officials had ordered his extradition to the USA last year but the 47-year-old, of Merton Close, launched a legal challenge in a bid to block the process.

Rejected

But at the High Court last Thursday Bebb-Jones signed a consent order withdrawing his appeal.

He later attempted to withdraw it but Lord Justice Gross and Mr Justice Davis rejected the application and formally dismissed his appeal.

Potentially he faces the death penalty, or mandatory life imprisonment without parole, if convicted.

Bebb-Jones is well-known on the Midlands gambling circuit for winning thousands of pounds in poker tournaments.

He ran a hotel in Grand Junction, Colorado, with his wife before her disappearance in 1997. Her skull was found in 2004 by which time Bebb-Jones had returned to



Marcus Bebb-Jones will be extradited to stand trial in America

the UK. He is accused of murdering her on September 16, 1997. In a hearing at the High Court last year, lawyers said he had not reported his wife missing and is alleged to have told a hotel worker not to report the disappearance. He is also said to have given differing accounts of his wife's whereabouts and, on September 17 1997, is said to have embarked on a spending spree in Las Vegas. The previous hearing was told this culminated in him shooting himself with a pistol – although he escaped life-threatening injuries. Bebb-Jones has said he went to Las Vegas to look for his wife. At last week's hearing Lord Justice Gross said: "To avoid any further reflection, we pronounce the dismissal of the appeal."

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thechronicle

Job losses top 70 in property company crash

A TOTAL of 71 staff lost their jobs as Tipton property and construction firm Image Styles group went into administration.

The company carried out refurbishment, maintenance and repair work, including painting and decorating, plastering and extensions for customers including Dudley Council, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Building firms Taylor Woodrow and Thomas Vale were also on the list of clients.

Father-of-four Steve Cole, aged 54, of Reddal Hill Road, in Cradley Heath, was a painting and decorating supervisor and the longest serving employee.

He said: "I am disappointed and surprised. The firm's been like a family to me over 31 years."

Directors were not available for comment and calls were referred to administrators RSM Tenon.

Cut funding for speed cameras, chiefs order

Girls take prize with football skills

A TEAM of Dudley girls, aged from nine to 11, triumphed in a West Midlands regional seven-a-side football championship – without letting in a single goal between the quarter finals and a nailbiting penalty shoot-out in the final.

The side from Red Hall Primary School, Zoar Street, Lower Gornal, will now represent the West Midlands in the England finals of the competition.

Their headteacher, Nicola Stanley, said: "It's a wonderful achievement and we are terribly proud of the girls. They have a superb coach in teaching assistant Shaun Evans."

The team won the Dudley round of the West Midlands County Schools Football Association Under 11 girls' seven-a-side.

They then represented the borough against seven other school areas in the region at Braemar Road Playing Fields, Sutton Coldfield, when they scored a total of eight goals.

Goalkeeper Rebecca Millward, aged nine, did not let in any goals all the way through the day until the end of full time, and then extra time, in the final against Park Hill Primary School, Coventry.

Both sides squared up for a penalty shoot-out, which Red Hall Primary won 3-2.



Bottom from left, Kelly Nicklin, Tegan Downes, centre from left, Olivia Carter, Rebecca Millward, Amy Walker, top from left, Abbie Hipkiss, Rhianna Blakesley

FUNDING for old-style speed cameras in the West Midlands should be axed, council chiefs have ruled. Police had wanted about £750,000 for the "wet film" cameras.

This funding is now to be scrapped by the region's councils.

Instead, a recommended £500,000 will be re-invested in newer systems such as mobile patrols and radar signs that flash up warnings.

The move marks the beginning of the end for old-style cameras across the region. Councils have ruled out paying an estimated £1.2million bill for replacing them all with newer models.

Police want to cut the cost of running the region's 304 cameras, 86 of which are already dummies.

Accidents

Only three cameras in Wolverhampton and 34 regionally are frequently used at present, with operating times limited to 15 days a month.

The West Midlands Joint Committee, a body of senior councillors from across the region, agreed to withdraw funding last week.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird, stand-in chairman for the committee, said: "The cameras we have are rapidly becoming obsolete."

"The estimate of £1.2m to replace them is money we do not have. There are better ways to reduce accidents on roads, more modern methods."

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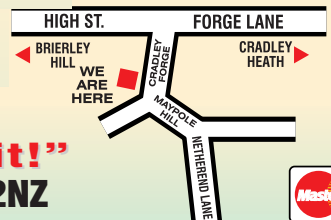
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thechronicle

TRAVEL

Where the Welcombe is worthy of the Bard

WELCOMBE by name and welcoming by nature, the Menzies Welcombe Hotel, Spa and Golf Club on the outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon is an ideal refuge in which to recover from the rigours of winter.

One of Warwickshire's premier hotels since the 1930s, the Menzies Welcombe has the traditional comforts of a country house hotel, including huge sofas in an oak panelled lounge warmed by a roaring log fire in a huge marble fireplace, fine food and drink and attentive service.

It combines this with a sparkling purpose-built spa and an 18-hole championship golf course within the surrounding 157 acres of parkland.

Not only is it a prime location in Shakespeare country, it actually was Shakespeare country as some of the land was once owned by the Bard himself.

The Jacobean style mansion was built in the Victorian era for Manchester industrialist and politician Mark Phillips, who is commemorated by a massive obelisk on a nearby hill, and it was later the home of brewer Sir Archibald Flower.

It was built as a 'Calendar House', a property with seven entrances (one for each day of the week), 52 chimneys (for each week of the year), 12 fireplaces (for each month) and 365 windows (for each day of the year). I must admit I was too busy relaxing to verify but I liked the idea that the



Beautiful grounds at the impressive Menzies Welcombe Hotel

magic numbers infuse luck and prosperity to all those who dwell within.

Menzies Hotels bought the property in 2003, restoring the ornate Italian garden and building the impressive spa. The spa facilities, which are free to hotel residents, include an indoor swimming pool, open-air vitality pool, heated loungers, foot spas and a range of 'thermal experience' rooms including a Finnish sauna, steam and cool rooms, ice fountain and storm showers to invigorate.

Pamper

A selection of Clarins, Elemis and Gerard's treatment rooms offer a range of therapies and treatments, including massages and facials, available for an additional charge for those needing a little pamper time.

The more active can use the state-of-the-art gymnasium, aerobics studio and all-weather tennis courts, or head out on the 18-hole par 70 golf course which once hosted the European Seniors Tour.

If you want to get out and about, Stratford is only three minutes' drive away with its impressive new theatre complex for the Royal Shakespeare Company and historic

houses with Shakespeare connections, plus probably the best array of shops in Warwickshire.

All this will develop an appetite. The hotel's Trevelyan restaurant (named after another previous owner, statesman Sir George Trevelyan) has two AA rosettes and head chef Robin Smith creates delicious dishes using traditional British ingredients. During my visit he created a twist on rice pudding involving apricots and caramel that was divine. There is an extensive wine list.

The hotel is a popular wedding venue and will be holding its annual Wedding Fayre on the afternoon of Sunday, February 27 (call 01789 413826).

The Menzies Welcombe is offering a winter chill-out deal until March on Friday and Sunday nights, with an overnight stay and a three course dinner, bed and breakfast for £60 per person. Book by calling 01789 295252.

Otherwise, prices start from £105 per night for a standard room or from £205 for a room with a four poster bed.

For more information visit www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk or email welcombe.reservations@menzieshotels.co.uk

thechronicle

Tom, 18, charting career as youngest Boat Master

A BOAT-LOVING teenager from Netherton has spoken about his golden opportunity to make a career from his life-long passion.

Tom Downing, aged 18, of Swan Street, could become one of the country's youngest Boat Masters after taking over the helm of The Blackcountryman narrow boat, which hosts pleasure cruises, comedy nights and historical tours of Stourbridge's glass industry.

The boat, which is usually moored at The Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street, Stourbridge, lost its long-serving captain and trip operator, Mick Bourne, when he retired last year.



Retiring trip organiser Mick Bourne



Tom at the age of 10 with brother Ben, five, parents Andy and Deb and grandparents John and Mary. Andy made the boat Henry Cleaver II from a steel shell

Tom said: "For this chance to come along now is perfect. It's a golden opportunity and I can't wait to make the most of it."

His father is a marine engineer and Tom followed him around the dry dock in Stourbridge from an early age. His father also helped transform and update the boat ready for the new season.

Tom said: "Seeing my dad's work passed his passion for boats on to me. It made me want to do a similar thing myself."

Experience

"We've worked together on the boat which has been good, and he has the experience of working in the dry dock." Tom has already worked as a mechanic after doing a training course when leaving school, but the job didn't quite work out.

He will take a test in March to gain a Boat Masters licence, and then be able to take charge of the boat for the new season of trips which starts on April 9.

"I think about my first season is nerve-wracking, but I'm excited about it too," he added.

Tom worked as an assistant to Mr Bourne during last year's season, so has dealt with customers, as well as handling the boat.

Colin Clements, manager and director of



Tom Downing hopes to get his Boat Masters licence

boat owner Stourbridge Navigation Trust, said: "Last year will have been an eye opener for Tom."

"He is a young entrepreneur and will be a breath of fresh air to the canals."

Graham Fisher MBE, former chairman of Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society, said: "I've known Tom for a long time and he's an enthusiastic lad."

"He's got plenty of support and I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing him the best of luck."



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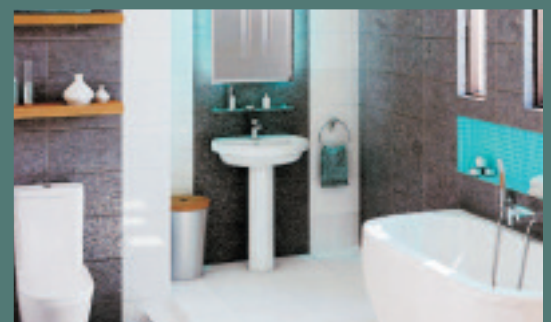
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thechronicle

Carer left furious at council U-turn on handout



Des Brown and his disabled wife Sharon with the letter saying they would not be getting the anticipated financial help from Sandwell Council

A CARER has hit back at Sandwell Council claiming they never apologised for withdrawing a £11,500 grant he used to look after his severely disabled wife.

But the council has now promised to reimburse him for out-of-pocket expenses incurred because the authority took a U-turn on his application.

Des Brown, of Tipton, said he was left out of pocket when Sandwell Council cancelled the grant application on October 1, last year, the day the money was due to go into his account.

The 62-year old needed the money to help look after his wife Sharon, who he has cared for full-time for the past 19 years.

But council officers visited his apartment, in High Street, and informed him and his wife, who suffers with deafness, asthma, diabetes and a hip problem, that there had been an "error".

Back in 2009, Sandwell Council told Mr Brown he was eligible for the grant. However, a council official told Mr Brown that he should have never been offered the grant in the first place and that he was not eligible because he lives in an apartment

where residents can call of the council's own carers for extra support, free-of-charge.

The money, which would have been in addition to his £43 per week carer's allowance, was budgeted by Mr Brown to help pay for services such as cleaning, cooking and escorting his 53-year-old wife to her hospital appointments.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for adult social care Councillor Linda Horton said: "We have apologised to Mr Brown and a senior manager has been out to see him and has listened to his complaint.

Evidence

"We are now waiting for Mr Brown to provide the council with evidence of payments he has made for his wife's care, which we feel is a reasonable thing to ask him to do.

"Once we receive evidence that he has paid for that care, we will be happy to reimburse him for any out of pocket costs that have arisen by him paying for that care."

Last year Cllr Horton said there had been a genuine human error adding that a reimbursement would "ensure Mr Brown

was no worse off and that his wife's needs were already being met by the accommodation and support provided by the extra care housing scheme."

However, Mr Brown who said his wife's condition has worsened in the last two years, claims that they are still awaiting a reply from the council.

He also said he believed that the council's lack of understanding has caused a lot of distress for his wife.

Mr Brown claimed: "I have had no response from the council in the way of an apology or reimbursement and I certainly haven't received a visitor from senior management.

"We have been hugely let down by the council and the longer this goes on the angrier I am getting with them and their lack of care.

"And as for saying there is free support where we live, this is ridiculous because any services you require you have to pay for, so obviously we have never used them because we can't afford it."

The council have caused us an endless amount of heartache and although I have receipts for everything I refuse to give them the evidence until they apologise."

thechronicle

THE WAY I SEE IT

Hopes for the Budget and new penalty powers for teachers

I KNOW high petrol and diesel prices are a huge burden for Dudley families. World oil prices and Labour's fuel duty rises have had a big impact.

Everyone knows the new Government faces a situation where the country's run out of money and difficult decisions have to be made.

So ministers are examining options, including a fair fuel stabiliser, and the Government will take its decision in the Budget on March 23. I hope that the Budget will contain measures to help hard-working families in Dudley with rising costs, including those at the pumps.

Whilst the Treasury is working on the budget, two more important Bills are being steered through Parliament by the coalition; our Education Bill and Health and Social Care Bill.

Starting with the Education Bill, this Government backs teachers. All the evidence from those countries with great education systems tells us that nothing is more important than attracting great people into teaching, and supporting them in the classroom.

Under the last Government, thousands of great people left the teaching profession because behaviour was out of control and they were forced to spend far too much time on paperwork. That's why we're taking action to restore discipline and reduce bureaucracy.

Teachers will be free to impose the penalties they need to keep order. And free from the red tape which swallows up teaching time.

Crucial

The Bill aims to restore discipline, reducing bureaucracy, support the most disadvantaged children at the very start, measure ourselves against the world's best, drive forward the academies programme, rationalise post-16 learning and introduce crucial reforms to higher education.

All of this is needed because of problems in the education system which are preventing all children from receiving an excellent education, including:

- High levels of abuse and assault by pupils. Every school day, nearly 1,000 children are excluded from school for abuse

and assault against staff and fellow pupils. Major assaults on staff have reached a five-year high, with 44 staff members having to be rushed to hospital with serious injuries.

- Bad behaviour driving away talent. Two thirds of teachers say bad behaviour is driving professionals out of the classroom. Amongst under-graduates considering becoming teachers, the most common reason for pursuing another profession is the fear of not being safe in school.

- A quarter of staff have faced false allegations. A survey for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers showed that a quarter of school staff have had a false allegation made against them by a pupil, and one in six have had an allegation made by a member of a pupil's family.

- Labour's guidance bombardment. In their last year in office, Labour sent schools almost 5,000 pages, or 1.6 million words, of guidance and information. This was the equivalent of reading the King James Bible cover to cover twice. No teacher has the time, will or energy to do this. The coalition has reduced the amount of information and

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter



situation is even more concerning for pupils on free school meals, with less than four per cent achieving the EBacc.

- Soaring numbers taking non-academic qualifications. Since 2004, there has been a 3,800 per cent increase in the number of non-academic qualifications awarded in schools.

So the Government has enabled more academies to open in eight months than Labour achieved in 13 years. In fact, the number of academies has more than doubled since the coalition came to power. A further 254 schools have applied to become academies.

The Government has also introduced the Health and Social Care Bill to modernise the NHS and give every patient the best chance of surviving a serious illness and the best quality of life if they have a long-term condition.

Saved

We want the NHS to be there for everyone, free-of-charge, and based on need and not ability to pay. That is why we are increasing spending on the NHS above inflation year after year – something that Labour opposed.

Our ambition is simple – to deliver care for patients which is the best of anywhere in the world, on the NHS. This Bill is needed because health outcomes in England are lagging behind the rest of Europe.

We are making these changes because when compared to other developed countries the NHS does not deliver the best results, or even average results. Put simply, if the care the NHS delivered to patients who have cancer, stroke, lung and liver disease was as good as the average in Europe, we could save 36 more lives a day – 13,000 lives every year. That is why we are modernising the NHS.

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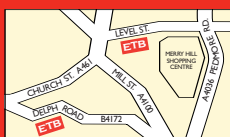
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Blinded rifleman is set to tackle mountain challenge for charity

Heroic soldier ready to scale new heights



Paul in Afghanistan before he was injured



Recovering at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham

A DEVASTATING Taliban bomb blast blinded him and left him fighting for his life. But Black Country soldier Paul Jacobs, awarded the George Medal for his bravery, is ready to take on a new challenge – climbing a 20,000ft mountain for charity.

Rifleman Jacobs, aged 21, and serving with the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was left sightless when a bomb was detonated as he was serving in Afghanistan in 2009.

The bomb killed two of his comrades and embedded shrapnel in his eyes. But after 18 months of treatment and recovery, he plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, be the first blind man to swim the Channel – and has fallen in love with the hospital worker who helped nurse him to health.

"It was hard. At the beginning it was very difficult to deal with," he says. "But I'm not the kind of guy to let it get the best of me – I'm just trying to get on with it now. There's no keeping this ginger nut down."

Rfn Jacobs was awarded the George Medal for his "faultless courage, selflessness and dedication to his unit", helping to evacuate his comrades from the danger zone, despite being seriously injured. He was flown to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham for treatment, where he met military ward healthcare assistant Louise Smith, 24, in September 2009 and proposed on her birthday, February 18.

Louise – who has worked at the hospital where seriously injured British troops are treated for just over a year – says: "He slowly made an impression on me. He's always joking, he never stops."

Asked what attracted her to Rfn Jacobs, she said: "I can't pinpoint one thing. You just get to know the guys when they're on the wards."

"You have to have a laugh with them. It's more uplifting

than being serious about things because some of the situations are really sad. I consider it part of the job."

Rfn Jacobs moved from London to Stourbridge to be with her after they got engaged. The wedding will be at Worcester in April.

"I leave all the planning to her – all I have to do is show up and say 'yes,'" he jokes. "Then I can start wearing slippers and enjoying married life."

Louise's father Peter, 49, of Lawn Avenue, Stourbridge, will tackle Mount Kilimanjaro with him as they try to raise cash for charity St Dunstan's, which provides help and support to blind ex-servicemen.

"I've already done the London Marathon and an Olympic-sized triathlon. Just because I can't see doesn't mean I have to be held back," says Rfn Jacobs.

"I'm doing it for St Dunstan's

as they have been a real lifeline. This is my way of giving something back."

He said St Dunstan's built up his confidence in using computers and walking with a white cane.

The pair are looking forward to tackling the 19,685ft-high mountain, Africa's highest peak and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world.

Fitness

He and Mr Smith, a heating engineer for TDR Mechanical Ltd in Pensnett, are currently training to build up their fitness. They will face six hours of gruelling climbing each day – a test of mental and physical stamina – and hope to raise at least £8,000 for St Dunstan's.

Rfn Jacobs says: "It's one of the toughest challenges I've faced but I won't give up until I reach the summit."



Rifleman Paul Jacobs is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of St Dunstan's. He is pictured with St Dunstan's trustee David Stuttard

After winning the George Medal, he spoke of the harrowing incident that left him blind.

"Another lad from the platoon decided to do a small search up an alleyway and he tripped a device, killing him."

"There was nothing left of him."

There was a second explosion and then another blast which killed a second colleague and injured him.

"I can't really remember too much apart from seeing the fallen soldier) and then waking up in Selly Oak."

To sponsor the Kilimanjaro expedition go to the website at <http://www.justgiving.com/> or make cheques payable to St Dunstan's and post them to the fundraising department at 12-14, Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD, stating the payment is for Rifleman Paul Jacobs' Mount Kilimanjaro challenge.



Paul with his fiancée Louise Smith, age 24

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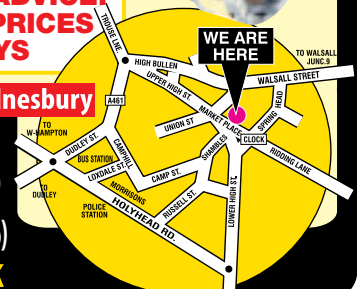
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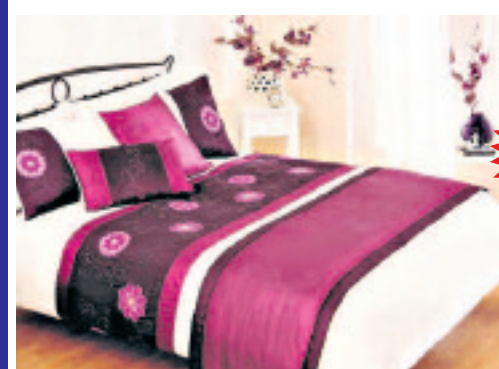
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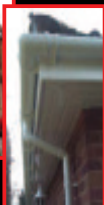
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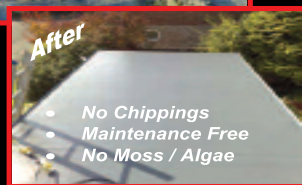


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How any dream came true



Liam Gallagher leads his new band Beady Eye to Wolverhampton

Liam has his Beady Eye on city tour date

BEADY Eye, the band formed by singer Liam Gallagher and other former members of the last incarnation of Oasis, came to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday, April 24, as part of their first UK tour.

The group was formed after the exit of Liam's brother, chief songwriter Noel Gallagher, meant the end of the hugely popular Britpop band.

In Beady Eye Liam is joined by guitarists Gem Archer (ex-Heavy Stereo) and Andy Bell (ex-Ride) with drummer Chris Sharrock (ex-La's).

They release their debut single, The Roller, and album Different Gear, Still Speeding, later this month.

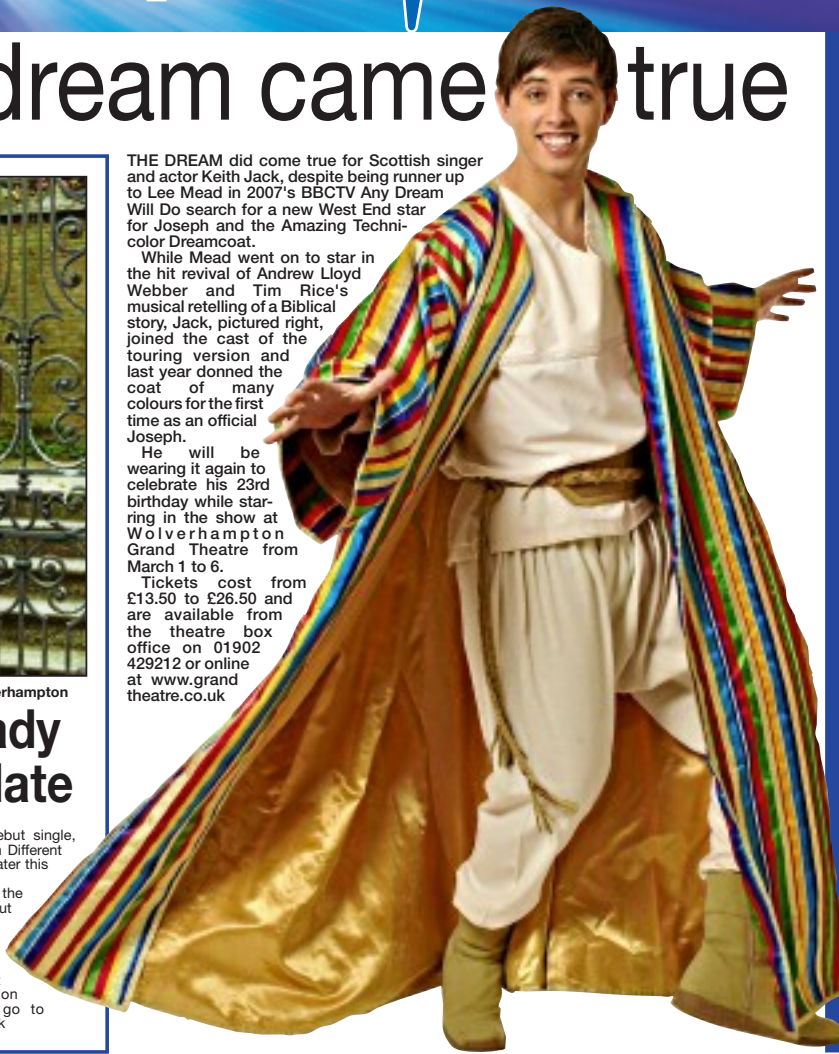
To get a preview of the band's songs check out their website www.beadyeyemusical.com - and for tickets, which are priced £27.50, contact Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or go to www.wolvscivic.co.uk

THE DREAM did come true for Scottish singer and actor Keith Jack, despite being runner up to Lee Mead in 2007's BBCTV Any Dream Will Do search for a new West End star for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

While Mead went on to star in the hit revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical retelling of a Biblical story, Jack, pictured right, joined the cast of the touring version and last year donned the coat of many colours for the first time as an official Joseph.

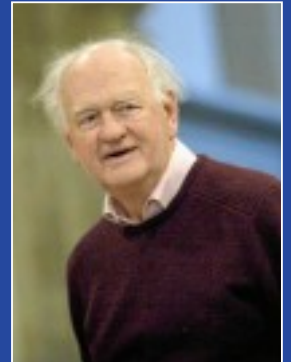
He will be wearing it again to celebrate his 23rd birthday while starring in the show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from March 1 to 6.

Tickets cost from £13.50 to £26.50 and are available from the theatre box office on 01902 429212 or online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk



Four pages of television starts - page 32

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Round-up of shows - page 31



Reviews and gigs - page 36

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Play that will have you in tears

WARTIME weepy Goodnight Mister Tom is being brought to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday.

The play is an adaptation of Michelle Magorian's popular children's novel about how a young London evacuee with a sad secret forges a friendship with his cantankerous old host, the titular Mister Tom, in a rural community.

Playing Mister Tom, a role associated with the late John Thaw from a popular TV film version, is Royal Shakespeare Company actor Oliver Ford Davies, who will be familiar to fans of the blockbuster Star Wars movies as Sio Bibble in The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith. He was also Polonius to David Tennant's Hamlet at Stratford.

Goodnight Mister Tom is staged at the Grand nightly from February 8 to 12 with matinees on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £6.50 to £22.50.

Joined

There is music and mirth at the Lichfield Street theatre this weekend with the Magic of Motown ensemble playing the Motor City's greatest hits in a soul tribute concert on Saturday.

Then modern day clown Danny Adams and ring master Clive Webb, father and son, are joined by the rest of the Circus Hilarious crew for family-friendly comedy at 1.30 and 6pm on Sunday.

The week after sees the return of Tamworth-based singing star Niki Evans as Mrs Johnstone in Willy Russell's classic Scouse musical Blood Brothers, at the Grand from February 14 to 19.

Craig Revel Horwood's flamboyant revival of 1980s musical Chess, created by the ABBA pair of Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus with



Oliver Ford Davies stars in Goodnight Mister Tom at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton



Ringmaster Clive Webb and clown Danny Adams appear with Circus Hilarious



Hardeep Singh Kohli will bring his "chat show with curry" show to Wolverhampton

Sir Tim Rice, returns to the West Midlands at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to the following Saturday.

Shona White stars as the woman caught between two Chess grandmasters, one Russian and one American, in the show which includes the hit songs I Know Him So Well and One Night in Bangkok.

Members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet move across the city centre from their home venue at the Hippodrome to the Symphony Hall for an evening of Music and Dance presented by the company's director David Bintley tomorrow night (Friday).

The show is the last hurrah of the company's 20th anniversary year in the city and will include highlights from the BRB's repertoire, including the much-loved Hobson's Choice

and La Fille mal Gardee. Birmingham Rep's first off-site production is Kenny Baraka's musical post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, the one hour tale of a teenager who holds the key to mankind's future.

It will be held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter from tomorrow (Friday) to February 19. Contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Tribute

Circus of Horrors bring their modern day freak show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday and it is for over 16s only.

The one-nighters at the Alex continue with a visit by psychic Sally Morgan on Wednesday.

Roger Dean and the Lazy Boys present their tribute to a country music legend in The Johnny Cash

Story on Friday, February 11. Birmingham School of Acting's spring season includes Jewish drama A Dybbuk in the main house at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from February 9 to 12.

During the same period, BSA perform adults-only drama Piano/Forte in the Crescent's Ron Barber Studio.

Raconteur, cook and comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli follows up his Nearly Naked Chef show with Chat Masala, which he describes as a "chat show with curry".

The Glaswegian host will interview local guests, including Wolverhampton-born Times journalist Sathnam Sanghera, author of The Boy with the Top Knot, and Black Country medium Philip Solomon, and everyone will get a chance to sample his curry. It takes place at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Wednesday, February 9.

Comedy highlights will also feature East End comic Micky Flanagan at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday. That's the same venue for Punt and Dennis, They Should Get Out More show on February 9. John Shuttleworth will be at the Town Hall on February 10.

Culture

In Wolverhampton, comedienne Andi Osho, from Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, is at The Slade Rooms on Sunday night as part of her first tour, Afroblighty. It tells of her inspiring culture clash upbringing as a child of Nigerian parents being brought up in London's East End.

The Broad Street venue also hosts Occult Comedian Andrew O'Neill on February 9.

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NOTE: All data were analyzed using a two-way analysis of variance with sex and age as the independent variables.

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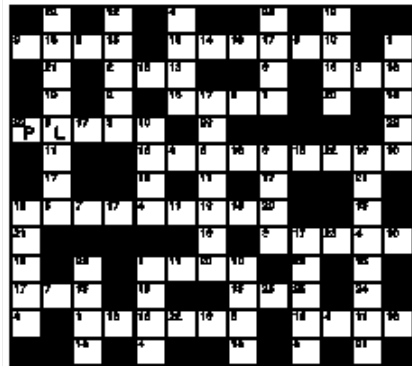
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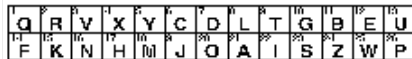
No.102

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letters to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. As taken by a parachutist? (5,4)
7. Its fallow will make one speechless (5)
8. Cheery the process? (4)
10. Re-written rule said to be something (8)
11. Such a quitted mist no doctor! (4)
12. Telling a sporting chance? (5)
15. Agrees it's mixed lot (6)
17. Eased from a to mouse Trade Union (4)
18. Remove everything and leave (5,3)
21. Run lightly onto the scene and stumbles! (5,2)
22. Layer on article turned to shade of red (5)
23. Ready mainly for Boy Scouts (2,8)

Quick Clues:

Across

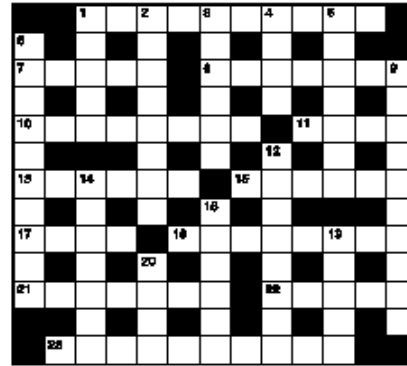
1. Meeting place (10)
7. Unit of weight (5)
8. Curtain (7)
10. Poplar (8)
11. Opinion (4)
12. Estimate (6)
15. Concealed (6)
17. Inactive (4)
18. Reputation (8)
21. Silence (7)
22. Once more (5)
23. Colony (10)

Down

1. Not a bad point for trade exhibitors (5)
2. Use dying, perhaps, and surrendering (8)
3. Indian antelope that's all right, her name (6)
4. Exit to weather (5)
5. It will confuse men in a certain count (7)
6. Come to a mean conclusion (7,3)
9. Up to date description of Christmas? (7,3)
12. Break a horse? (8)
14. A jump, there is substantial (7)
16. Go wrong in bringing up students (4,2)
19. Was a possessive type? (5)
20. Rules of star pattern (4)

Down

1. Renowned (5)
2. Unnecessary (8)
3. Simpler (6)
4. Old man (4)
5. Incorporated (7)
6. Patient (10)
9. U.S. State (3,7)
12. Faint (8)
14. Serious (7)
16. Transient (6)
19. Characteristic (5)
20. Catalogue (4)



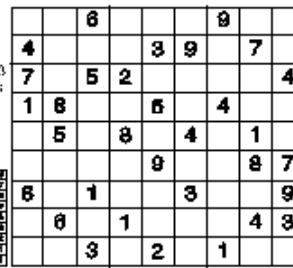
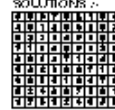
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRIMINAL - Across 15 (5,4), 17 (10,10), 21 (10,10), 22 (10,10). Down 1 (10,10), 2 (10,10), 3 (10,10), 4 (10,10), 5 (10,10), 6 (10,10), 7 (10,10), 8 (10,10), 9 (10,10), 10 (10,10), 11 (10,10), 12 (10,10), 13 (10,10), 14 (10,10), 15 (10,10), 16 (10,10), 17 (10,10), 18 (10,10), 19 (10,10), 20 (10,10), 21 (10,10), 22 (10,10).

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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Funny Girl proved a sad final stage bow for Sheila

SHEILA Steafel, like most actresses of a certain age, has melted away from our TV screens, which is a shame because she was one of the most gifted comic character actresses of the 1960s and 70s.

Even in her autobiography *When Harry Met Sheila* (Apex, hardback, £12.99) she shares billing with her former husband of six years, the late

Steptoe And Son actor Harry H Corbett. This is no great work of showbiz history but Sheila is engagingly honest, both about her unhappy childhood in apartheid-era South Africa and her relationship with Harry H.

There are lots of anecdotes from the golden age of British TV in the 1960s when Sheila had roles in such pioneering shows as David Frost's *Frost*

Book

Over England in 1966 with John Cleese and Ronnie Barker and Corbett and in dramas ranging from *Z Cars* to *The Prisoner*. Those in their 40s may remember her as the White Lady in children's TV series *The Ghosts of Motley Hall*, though perhaps her finest TV moments were as Miss Popsy Wopsy, the aspir-

ing music hall star of *The Good Old Days*.

She had character roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company and one-woman shows during the 1980s and 90s but seems to have blown her chances of returning to screens via the BBC with a few ill-timed diva strops.

Her last role on stage was as Mrs Brice in the 2008 Chichester Festival revival of

the musical *Funny Girl*. She now regrets saying that if it was the last work she ever did it would have been worth it... she hasn't had a major acting job since. "I only wish that Whoever is Up There hadn't taken me quite so literally!"

The book features a warm-hearted introduction from Claire Rayner, written shortly before her death last year.

Leon Burakowski



Reviews

Showstopper! The Improvised Musical Arena Theatre

LIVING on their wits, the Showstopper ensemble never perform the same show twice. This fast-thinking, highly-talented group create a musical on the spot from suggestions shouted by the audience.

This makes for a unique and exciting experience with the audience an integral part of the process.

It's like a *Whose Line Is It Anyway* sketch but massively expanded and given a West End flavour. Showstopper recently made the transition to BBC Radio 4's 6.30 comedy slot on Wednesdays, and the Wolverhampton audience came prepared with ideas at this one-nighter on Friday.

Six actor/singers were accompanied by a keyboardist and, with only a few props, had to create magic from the combination of title, location, era and musical theatre styles. These were chosen by narrator, Sean McCann, from audience suggestions. He certainly put the actors through their paces with increasingly bizarre stage directions.

So, largely due to audience member Geoff, we saw the 90-minute musical *An Afternoon On A Ship* about a cruise ship sailing from Dudley Port to Bermuda, where love blossoms between sailor Trey (Oliver Senton) and Black Country housewife Louise (brilliant Pippa Evans) despite the presence of her cross-dressing husband Peter (Andrew Pugsley), one half of cabaret cruise act Foxfire. Throw into the mix a singing waxwork Chinaman and a kung fu fighting dog, and you see just how surreal it got. But the song styles remained spot on, with the Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables pastiches being real showstoppers.

Leon Burakowski

Milton Jones, Wolverhampton Civic Hall SHARP, quick-witted, erudite, haphazard, surreal, endearing. All these are true of comics' comic Milton Jones, who gave his audience a night to remember with his off-beat, unorthodox humour.

In fact, this was two Miltons for the price of one, with the first support act being his 'granddad', a delightful 15-minute ditty covering an alternative view of important moments in history set the standard, detailing such events as the world's first weather report and how Mozart actually met a grisly and untimely death.

Don't be fooled by the silly shirts or ridiculous hair; Jones is as clever as they come and handles audience banter with aplomb, seemingly armed with killer lines for every eventuality throw at him.

The influences of Tommy Cooper and Ronnie Barker are evident but this is a comedian who puts his own indelible mark on the comedy circuit, dishing out fast-paced one-liners better than anyone, usually laced with charming word play.

No joke is more than a few lines long and the subjects covered during an exuberant 80-minute set are too many to list, but not once does he reduce himself to swearing or toilet humour. As every good comedian does, he leaves the audience wanting more; at this rate we'll all be seeing a lot more of him.

Tim Spiers

It's a small venue return for Glasvegas



After a year of writing and recording Mercury-nominated Glasvegas are back with a new album and on tour and will be playing a gig at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms in March

GLASVEGAS are back. The Glaswegian band set the rock scene alight with their self-titled debut album in 2008, yielding hit single *Daddy's Gone*. They were nominated for the Mercury Music Prize the following year, when they spent months touring America and supporting the likes of Oasis and U2.

They seemed to fade from the scene last year but were actually busy writing and recording in California and New York, and are now set to return with their second album *Euphoric Heartbreak* and gigs including a concert at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms in Broad Street on Wednesday, March 23, a rare chance to see a band that's played stadia in a small venue.

Tickets cost £12.50, available from Midland Box Office 0870 320 7000 or www.wolvescivic.co.uk.

Gig joy for Duranies

IT'S the news all Duranies have been hoping for... the Birmingham 80s pop legends are going back on the road for their first tour in seven years - including a home city gig at the LG Arena on May 21.

The original line-up of Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor and Roger Taylor will perform to more than 150,000 fans in 11 arena concerts across the UK.

The shows will mark the band's first European performances in support of their critically acclaimed new album *All You*

Need Is Now, produced by Mark Ronson, and the start of a world tour that will last well into 2012.

A nine track version of *Duran Duran's* latest studio record was released exclusively on iTunes in December and hit the top spot on download charts in 15 countries including the UK.

An expanded version of the new record will be released in late March, in both digital and physical formats.

Tickets for the LG Arena concert are priced from £30 to £55, available on 0844 338 8000.

Bryson's home visit full of facts

Audiobook

WRITER, broadcaster and historian Bill Bryson is good company, which makes his latest audiobook an experience like listening to an entertaining and informative friend.

The Anglophile American, who first moved to England in 1977, has written books on his travels and a hugely popular science book, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*.

But he turns his attention closer to home, indeed his own, in *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* (£14.99, Random House Audiobooks).

Moving from room to room and looking at everyday objects, he uncovers the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Each room or object is the starting point for an exploration of history and human ingenuity, the who-why-when-and-where of how the modern home came to be, which, naturally, also teaches us a lot about how people used to live in the past.

The surprises come thick and fast and will supply the listener with an endless store of did-you-know anecdotes.

The book, even in an abridged form, takes six hours for Bryson



Bill Bryson - endless stories

to read over five CDs. Thankfully, it remains consistently interesting and his warm midwestern tone is easy on the ear.

Less easy on the ear is the bogus Russian accent of Aleksandr Orlov, the 'author' who reads *A Simple Life* (£4.99, Random House Audiobooks), a spoof biography of the Muscovite Meerkats who feature in a popular series of television adverts. It's thin stuff even for an hour-long CD, a mildly amusing explanation of how the meerkats came from Africa to old Russia.

Leon Burakowski

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★ Hall ★ Lounge
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★ Gas central heating
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Offers Over £100,000 **NEW**

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Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill



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Glen Road, Dudley



£90,000

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Salter Road, Tipton



Offers Over £85,000

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Langley Avenue, Bilston



£92,950

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A three bedroom property briefly comprising of an enclosed entrance porch, lounge, dining area, kitchen and bathroom. Also having a rear garden.

Manby Gate, New Road



£117,750

New two bedroom mid terraced property comprising entrance hall, kitchen, lounge/diner, downstairs wc, bathroom, rear garden and parking.

Harper Grove, Tipton



Offers Over £130,000

A modern two and a half storey property comprising downstairs wc, kitchen, lounge, first floor having two bedrooms and bathroom, second floor having master bedroom with en-suite, off road parking and front and rear gardens.

Kennedy Crescent, Dudley



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Field Mews, Dudley



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Birchfield Lane, Oldbury



Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen, utility area, conservatory, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Regent Road, Tividale



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NETHERTON

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This beautifully presented, modern three storey end townhouse offers family sized versatile accommodation over three floors. The gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises: reception hall, utility, guest wc, open plan fitted kitchen/lounge, three bedrooms, en-suite, house bathroom, garden to rear. Simply must be viewed. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

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MUSHROOM GREEN - NETHERTON**WOODSETTON**

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Rarely available to purchase in this location it this traditionally styled, one/two bedroom detached bungalow available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The recently rewired, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises: hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens surrounding and driveway. Situated in the Mushroom Green conservation area. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

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Chartwell Close

This deceptively spacious, significantly improved, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached home has been conscientiously maintained by the present owners. Situated in a quiet cul de sac location, the impressive accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, hall, transverse lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY addition, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, family/playroom, three good bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite, driveway & low maintenance rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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DUDLEY

Dibdale Street

An ENLARGED, freehold, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated traditional semi detached with potential & tremendous views; porch, imposing reception hall, sitting room with bay, dining with patio doors, pantry, kitchen, Two double bedrooms (both with wardrobes), tiled bathroom & enlarged landing with staircase up to third dormer room. Large 'drive through' CONTRACTORS GARAGE with automated door, garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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LANESFIELD

Gordon Avenue

An attractive, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been tremendously upgraded in recent years set in convenient neighbourhood & comprising entrance hall, excellent lounge with walk in bay & OPEN FIREPLACE, superb enlarged & refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of stylish units (& double french doors out to the garden). Two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite. Extensive gated side space (vendors advise outline planning consent for an extension) & good sized rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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GORNAL WOOD

15 The Spinney



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UPPER GORNAL

Roundhouse Road

Enjoying an open aspect to the front, this traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority), gas centrally heated semi detached property is situated in an established residential location and may particularly appeal to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, hall, lounge, sitting/dining room, kitchen, side porch, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c. & low maintenance front & rear gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

RUSSELLS HALL

Ketley Hill Road

A DELIGHTFUL MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is very well located within the very popular Russells Hall development, offering a SPACIOUS and VERY WELL PRESENTED layout of accommodation which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, comprising: entrance porch, full width lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. The property is set back beyond the attractively maintained front gardens and to the rear enjoying a very pleasant enclosed garden with store. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £106,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Moor Street

We are pleased to offer for sale, this modern style, two bedroom end townhouse, with uPVC double glazed accommodation ideally suited to the first time buyer. The well presented accommodation comprises: hall, lounge, modern styled kitchen/diner, two first floor bedrooms, refitted bathroom, burglar alarm, gardens to three sides including large garden area to side which could be suitable for a number of uses. Realistically priced. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers around £99,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Exchange Street

Ideally suited to the first time buyer/young family is this modern two bedroom semi detached property which comprises: hall, modern kitchen, lounge, conservatory, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear, parking to the front, economy seven storage heating, and uPVC double glazing. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £95,950

COSELEY

Ebenezer Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A significantly MODERNISED & much enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate terrace in a convenient/established district. Stylish accommodation includes lounge, dining room, upgraded kitchen. To the first floor are double & single bedrooms together with reappointed bathroom with white/shower, 'low maintenance' (decking) garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £92,500

WOODSIDE - DUDLEY

Wood Street

This traditional style, three bedroomed semi detached property requires general updating and is realistically priced. The accommodation comprises: hall, lounge, kitchen, guest wc, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear, cavity wall insulation, and storage heating. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

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Price: £65,950

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Offers in the region of £280,000

IN JANUARY

TAYLORS (Sedgley Office)
SUCCESSFULLY SOLD
22 PROPERTIES

Subject to contract

Market conditions remain challenging with more houses available for sale than proceedable purchasers but Sedgley Office must, arguably, be one of the busiest in the neighbourhood!

LOWER GORNAL

A particularly SPACIOUS, enlarged/extended detached, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed family home that has been 'transformed' by present vendors set within walking distance of village. Superb accommodation includes imposing reception hall, store, elegant lounge with bay & feature fireplace, dining room with double French doors out to garden, magnificent 16'7" reappointed breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, pantry, utility room, fitted cloakroom. FIVE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with shower room en suite & walk-in wardrobe/closet) and stylish bathroom with contemporary suite installed in early 2010. Garage, gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £249,950

Summer Lane**WOMBOURNE VILLAGE**

48 Bumblehole Meadows

Superbly located within highly sought after Wombourne Village, this DISTINCTIVE DAVID PAYNE DETACHED FAMILY HOME forms part of this exclusive development and offers a VERY SPACIOUS arrangement of VERY WELL PRESENTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS LOUNGE, separate formal dining room, fitted dining kitchen with integrated appliances, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (all having fitted wardrobes and the master having an EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and house bathroom with light colour suite. Set back beyond an attractive low maintenance foregarden, together with the LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with approach to GARAGE and enjoying an EXCELLENT SIZED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £242,950

BEARWOOD**HALESOWEN****SEDGLEY****129 Poplar Road****0121 434 4345****21 Hagley Road****0121 550 3978****2A Dudley Street****01902 880888****6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS****Taylor's**

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

WORDSLEY**£10,000 REDUCTION****16 Troon Place**

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, NOW INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN DETACHED CORNER FAMILY HOME enjoying a delightful 'cul de sac' setting, OVERLOOKING A NEIGHBOURLING GREEN and offering an ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED LAYOUT, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: entrance porch, INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS FULL DEPTH LOUNGE with DINING AREA, attractively fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and breakfast area, off, study, separate sitting room / bedroom, SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED BEDROOM with separate shower and THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS. Set back beyond an attractive low maintenance law garden, together with a TARMAC DRIVEWAY leading to a CARPORT and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £209,950

KINGSWINFORD**JUST BACK ON SALE****56 Kingsley Road**

THIS SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY ALTERED AND IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL 'BAY' FRONTED SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a very pleasant setting within this highly sought after address, well placed for excellent local schooling and offering an EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED LAYOUT, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, LUXURY REFITTED DINING KITCHEN with integrated appliances, workshop / office, luxury ground floor shower room, FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, re-appointed classic white bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond a FULL WIDTH TARMAC DRIVEWAY and enjoying a GOOD SIZED & ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £209,950

SEDGLEY**Wombourne Close**

Enviably situated within reasonable distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities, facilities, schools, etc., a conscientiously maintained & comparatively spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached family home in quiet cul de sac. Accommodation provides reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room (with patio doors), kitchen, FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, carport, delightful secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

GOSPEL END VILLAGE (NR. SEDGLEY)**Gospel End Road**

Delightfully situated in Gospel End Village and enjoying PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS over open fields to rear, this most attractive, detached two bedroom bungalow has both UPVC double glazing & a gas central heating system ideally suited for retirement purposes. The well presented accommodation comprises entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen with a range of units, two bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite, driveway, garage and a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

UPPER GORNAL**Eve Lane**

A particularly spacious, exceptionally well presented & tremendously improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home in convenient/established district. Superb accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, magnificent 20'9" through living/dining room with bay to front & UPVC double french doors out to rear garden (with awning), lobby, fitted cloakroom with stylish white suite, outstanding through dining kitchen (acting as the 'hub of the house') with extensive range of 'cream-Shaker' style units & a utility room (3). Three double bedrooms & a further large bedroom (three with fitted units), recently reappointed bathroom with white suite, 'large contractors garage', secluded rear garden with gated REAR PARKING. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01602 880888

Offers in the region of £179,995

DUDLEY**Dingle Road, Oakham**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A tremendously modernised, improved & EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated, primarily UPVC double glazed inter-war semi detached character that has been transformed by present vendors in recent years. Stunning accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, splendid 12' x 14' LOUNGE with bay, separate dining room, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, REFITTED FEATURE KITCHEN with built-in cooker, Pantry, separate Hobby/Utility Room, THREE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, spacious classic white Bathroom, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING plus GAS CENTRAL HEATING. Broad frontage with attractive garden and wide driveway, GARAGE and delightful rear timber decking patio plus generous lawn and shrubs with sunny, southerly aspect. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in the region of £179,950

LOWER GORNAL**Longfellow Road, Straits**

An EXTENDED, conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated & primarily UPVC double glazed detached, freehold, bungalow in well regarded neighbourhood with walking distance of country park, day-to-day shops, post office, doctors & bus route. Providing significant potential the accommodation comprises entrance vestibule, reception hall, two double bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, extended 20'9" lounge/dining room (with patio doors), kitchen, pantry, UPVC double glazed verandah, Carport, lengthy garage, neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £178,500

DUDLEY**Fairview Road**

A remarkably SPACIOUS, significantly EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily UPVC double glazed detached highly individual Edwardian residence in popular district within walking distance of Miling Bank & so many other amenities. There are many fine period features with the accommodation comprising canopy porch, entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), transverse lounge, additional sitting room with double glazed patio doors, understorey store leading to cellar, refitted breakfast kitchen with various appliances, sun room (with patio doors-glazed roof) and a separate toilet beyond. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, large bathroom, LARGE 'CONTRACTORS GARAGE' (30ft x 10'4"), secluded walled rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offer in the region of £174,950

KINGSWINFORD**£7,000 REDUCTION****49 Lowe Drive**

Gently elevated back beyond the BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY this DELIGHTFUL, LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOME is both WELL PROPORTIONED and SPACIOUS throughout, providing an ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED layout which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING/UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, large lounge with feature fireplace, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS and bathroom. The property is further enhanced by GARAGE and a pleasant patio/lawned rear garden. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price now £172,950

BRIERLEY HILL**Goldencross Way**

Beautifully presented throughout, this modern style, three bedroomed detached family home built by Messrs Morris Homes is conveniently situated for local amenities, and is well worthy of internal inspection. With UPVC double glazing and a gas central heating system, accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c., three bedrooms (with en-suite to master), family bathroom with white suite, driveway, garage, and pleasant rear garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 205265

Offers around £169,950

WORDSLEY**£5000 REDUCTION****31 Barnett Street**

THIS ELEGANT TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE enjoys a splendid setting within this delightful mature address, ideal for village amenities and park and, SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, offers: Fine Hall, SPLENDID 12' x 14' LOUNGE with bay, separate dining room, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, REFITTED FEATURE KITCHEN with built-in cooker, Pantry, separate Hobby/Utility Room, THREE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, spacious classic white Bathroom, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING plus GAS CENTRAL HEATING. Broad frontage with attractive garden and wide driveway, GARAGE and delightful rear timber decking patio plus generous lawn and shrubs with sunny, southerly aspect. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £169,950

LOWER GORNAL**Keats Close, Straits**

A superb, significantly enhanced & refurbished, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed bungalow occupying larger than average garden and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from rear and positioned within walking distance of open fields / country park / shops and post office. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, transverse lounge, reappointed/enlarged bathroom, upgraded breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two double bedrooms. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

COSELEY**Nicholds Close**

An attractive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed family home enviably situated at head of favoured cul de sac within walking distance of so many amenities, bus & rail transport routes. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, kitchen, store. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with bay & shower room en suite), bathroom, boarded/paneled attic space with two 'velux' style skylights. Lengthy (37ft) gated drive, brick garage, LEVEL SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,900

LOWER GORNAL**Cinder Road**

RARE OPPORTUNITY, a delightful conscientiously maintained, recently UPVC double glazed & also gas centrally heated semi detached character with TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL, on periphery of well regarded village. Accommodation provides reception hall, store, large L-shape living/dining room (previously separate rooms), kitchen, rear lobby, boiler room, separate w.c., outer double glazed porch, utility room. Three well proportioned bedrooms, recently reappointed bathroom with contemporary look white suite. Lengthy 32ft carport, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £160,000

DUDLEY

Manderston Close, Milking Bank neighbourhood BUILDERS PART EXCHANGE - Best value! Sold with No Upward Chain, and with INCENTIVES AVAILABLE, an exceptionally stylish, much enhanced, three bedroomed home with UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, and GARAGE in favoured well regarded neighbourhood. (PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £159,950 to include carpets & other items.

GORNAL WOOD**Bank Road**

An absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated, and UPVC double glazed semi detached cottage believed to date back to 1780 that has been totally 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years carefully enhancing/improving many period features. Accommodation includes: sitting room (with cast fireplace), separate dining room (with cast fireplace), and store, inner hall, transverse refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'Old English Cream' units, utility room, and a brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Two double bedrooms, shower room, EXTENSIVE GARDENS with potential garage space (subject to regulations). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £158,950

WOODSETTON**Parkes Lane**

This traditional style, bay fronted, three bedroom semi detached family home is beautifully presented throughout and is situated in an established residential location with primarily UPVC double glazed windows and a gas central heating system. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), bathroom with corner bath, garage, concrete print driveway and a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £152,950

SEDGLEY**Queens Road**

A conscientiously maintained, ENLARGED, gas centrally & primarily UPVC double glazed inter-war semi detached character in well regarded district within level walking distance of Bull Ring and so many amenities/open fields. The accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall sitting room with bay, pantry, living room with verandah beyond, 17ft breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, lengthy secluded rear garden (NB: house has been re-roofed in recent years). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £152,000

COSELEY**Hall Lane, Hurst Hill**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A REALISTICALLY PRICED, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached with potential comprising hallway, fitted cloakroom, lounge, understairs store, dining room with patio doors, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garden, GARAGE at rear with carport section. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

COSELEY**NEW PRICE****Horace Street, Hurst Hill**

An EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily UPVC double glazed detached set in a established, convenient district with good distant views from the rear. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, extended kitchen with a fine range of units, living room, three double bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, integral garage. Block paved foregarden & low maintenance rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950

WOODSETTON**Sedgley Road, 'Swan Village'**

A quite distinctive, traditional, freehold, interior semi detached character that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining/enhancing many fine period features (with lofty ceiling heights, picture rails, panelled doors, open fireplaces etc.). The gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed accommodation includes: reception hall, lounge with bay, separate dining room with door through to a conservatory (as seen), extended 15'8" kitchen, two double bedrooms, third room (with potential), bathroom. (Blocked paved foregarden (kerb dropped), and a rear garden. Some finishing works are required. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

COSELEY**Ettingshall Road**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A well presented, tremendously modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years. Superb accommodation includes reception hall, spacious L-shape lounge / dining room with patio doors and a walk-in store off, kitchen. Central landing. Three well proportioned bedrooms (principal bedroom with walk-in closet / wardrobe with shelves / rails), stylish / reappointed bathroom with white suite, garage, extensive parking, neat garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £133,000

WOODSETTON**Park Close**

An ENLARGED, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached bay relatively short room with verandah on periphery of Bramford Estate and providing some potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, pantry, enlarged RECENTLY UPGRADED kitchen with a fine range of units incorporating oven, hob & extractor. Three bedrooms, bathroom, substantial CONTRACTOR'S GARAGE (19ft x 9'11"), garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £129,950

UPPER GORNAL**NEW PRICE****Stonepine Place**

A delightful, conscientiously maintained and particularly well presented, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached conveniently situated on a small cul de sac development within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Still covered by remainder of NHBC guarantee, the stylish accommodation includes entrance hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, store, dining room with double opening French doors out to the garden and a well equipped kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lengthy drive and brick GARAGE, neat gardens, good distant views. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £127,500

Taylor's

6 LOCAL OFFICES
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WORDSLEY



NEW PRICE

37 Lyndhurst Drive

This SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW VERY SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a GENEROUS LAYOUT of accommodation, with all rooms being VERY WELL PROPORTIONED and including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, spacious lounge, separate sitting / dining room, REFITTED KITCHEN with integrated appliances, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and bathroom with 'light' colour suite. Set back beyond a DRIVEWAY to the fore and enjoying a patio / lawn rear garden. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £124,950

SEDGLEY



Arcal Street

Vendor advises £2,500 cashback upon completion on the full asking price CONVENIENTLY SITUATED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either secondary or sealed unit double glazed semi detached within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities/schools etc. Accommodation includes: entrance porch, reception hall, transverse lounge/dining room, breakfast kitchen. Three well proportioned bedrooms (one with fitted wardrobes), bathroom. Garage, car port, garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £122,250

COSELEY



NEW PRICE

Anvil Crescent

Enjoying an open aspect to the front, this beautifully presented, modern style, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated three bedroom semi detached home is well worthy of internal inspection. The property briefly comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite, driveway & a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950

LOWER GORNAL



Sandfield Grove

Enviably situated in a cul de sac location, this traditional style, three bedroom, majority uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached home is sure to appeal to first time buyers & young families alike. The well presented accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, dining room, utility/store, downstairs w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, driveway & landscaped gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £116,000

GORNAL WOOD



New Street

A tremendously enhanced & exceptionally stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed, ENLARGED traditional intermediate terrace of character excellently situated within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Stylish accommodation includes 22ft through living room, separate breakfast room (with patio doors out to the garden) and upgraded kitchen, lobby, recently reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite/electric shower, two double bedrooms. Neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

DUDLEY



Elm Green, Old Park Farm estate

A particularly SPACIOUS, significantly modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'family home' conveniently situated in relatively quiet neighbourhood. Excellent accommodation includes reception hall, tiled shower room, lounge, sitting/dining room, large 16ft 'cottage style' breakfast kitchen acting as the 'hub of the house' with numerous units and patio doors out to the garden. FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, brick/block paved foregarden, neat rear garden and POTENTIAL GARAGE (subject to relevant planning). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £110,000

KINGSWINFORD



£5,000 REDUCTION

271 Bromley Lane

Approached just off 'tree-lined' Bromley Lane, overlooking maintained lawns/trees, this MOST DECEPTIVE, SUCCESSFULLY ENLARGED MODERN MID TOWNHOUSE offers a BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED and MOST ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED arrangement of EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS accommodation, comprising: entrance hall, large attractive full width lounge, luxury refitted dining kitchen with built in appliances, rear hall, utility/laundry room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, luxury refitted bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and REPLACEMENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Landscaped front garden/low maintenance landscaped rear garden and DOUBLE GARAGE. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £109,950

BROCKMOOR



Fox Foot Drive

Realistically priced for maximum interest, is this modern two bedroomed, end town house which has gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation ideal for the young family or first time buyer, which comprises: hall, kitchen, transverse lounge, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom, garden to rear, allocated parking to the front, burglar alarm. View early to avoid disappointment. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £107,500

LOWER GORNAL



Stickley Lane

A significantly modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & mostly uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' in established neighbourhood with good distant views. Stylish accommodation comprises entrance hallway, through lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with various integrated appliances, pantry, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Useful lobby, separate toilet, good sized level rear garden, potential off road parking (kerb not dropped). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £103,000

BRIERLEY HILL



Fenton Street

This beautifully presented, modern style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority) and gas centrally heated, two bedroomed semi detached home is situated in an established residential location, and may be especially suited to first time buyers. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, guest wc, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, two good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, allocated parking, and a pleasant low maintenance rear garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £99,950

PENSNETT



Redfly Lane

Being well presented and much improved by the current owners, is this traditional style, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed, two bedroomed semi detached property which must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer. Briefly comprising: hall, lounge, modern breakfasting kitchen, two first floor bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, garden to rear with decking, driveway to the front, uPVC guttering & fascia. Do not miss out on this competitively priced property. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £89,995

LOWER GORNAL



NEW PRICE

Orchard Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A freehold, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, intermediate 'starter home' conveniently situated within reasonable walking distance of the village & all associated amenities, facilities, country park, etc. Providing significant potential, the accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, dining room (with double opening french doors to garden), THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, delightful gardens to the front & rear. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £79,950

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MILKING BANK £259,950

• 4 bedroom detached in small select cul-de-sac

- Entrance hall, lounge, dining room
- Conservatory, cloakroom, breakfast kitchen
- Utility, bathroom, en-suite, garage
- Central heating & double glazing



42 LUTLEY DRIVE £149,950

PEDMORE

• 3 storey, 3 bedroom mid terraced property

- Popular location, close to rail links & M5 access
- Close by to Stourbridge & good school catchment
- Spacious lounge, dining kitchen, bathroom, garage
- D. glazing to windows/doors & central heating

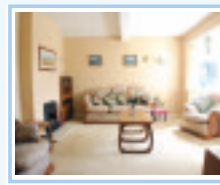


80 ENVILE ROAD

WALL HEATH £169,950

• THE EDGE OF GREEN BELT COUNTRYSIDE

- A 4 bedroom mid terraced house
- Lounge, dining room, cloakroom
- Re-fitted kitchen, shower room
- Central heating & double glazing (wh. stated)



45 CHURCH STREET £99,950

PENSNETT

• A 2 bedroom semi-detached house

- Lounge, re-fitted kitchen, fitted cloakroom
- Rear verandah, re-fitted bathroom
- Tastefully decorated, central heating
- Double glazing



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**WEST BROMWICH****MEYRICK ROAD**

- Mid Townhouse Residence
- Two Bedrooms • En-Suite To Bedroom One • Rear Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom • GCH System & D/G Where Stated • Driveway

£119,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**HAZEL ROAD**

- Bay Fronted Three Bedroom Detached • Two Reception Rooms • Kitchen • Gas Central Heated System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Rear Garden Having Lawn & Patio • Garage • Driveway

£169,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**NEWCOMEN DRIVE**

- Extended Detached Residence • Four Bedrooms • En-Suite To Bedroom One • Front & Extended Rear Reception Rooms • Kitchen & Utility • Ground Floor Cloakroom • D/G Where Stated • GCH System • Garage • Driveway

£212,000

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**DOUGHTY CLOSE**

- Two Bedroom Apartment • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Double Glazing Where Stated • En-Suite • No Chain

£79,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**OAK CLOSE**

- First Floor Flat • One Bedroom • Fitted Kitchen • Lounge • Bathroom • Communal Parking • No Chain

£49,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**ROWAN CRESCENT**

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached • Lounge • Kitchen • Diner • To Rear • Bathroom • Upstairs • GCH System & D/G Where Stated • Extensive Rear Garden • Garage • Driveway For 2-3 Cars

£149,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**KINGLSEY STREET**

- Mid Terraced Residence • Two Bedrooms • Lounge & Kitchen • GCH System & D/G Where Stated • No Chain

£69,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**NETHERTON**

- Semi Detached Residence • Three Bedrooms • Lounge To Rear • Fitted Kitchen • Diner • Ground Floor Cloakroom • GCH System • D/G Where Stated • Block Paved Driveway • No Chain

£123,995

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**MOORE CRESCENT**

- Improved Semi Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms • Through Lounge/Dining Room • Kitchen • Conservatory/Lean-To • Enclosed Porch • Rear Garden Overlooking Playing Fields • GCH System & D/G Where Stated • Driveway

£138,000

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**MONCRIEFFE CLOSE**

- First Floor Apartment • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen • D/G Where Stated • Allocated Parking

£79,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**BRAIDES ROAD**

- Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Semi Detached • Two Reception Rooms • Utility Room • Extended Kitchen • Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing Where Stated • Driveway • Rear Garden • No Chain

£80,000

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**RACEMEADOW CRESCENT**

- Modern Three Bedroom Townhouse • En-Suites To Bedrooms 1 & 2 • Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room • Garage, Rear Garden & Driveway

£154,950

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**AWBRIDGE ROAD**

- Semi Detached Residence • Three Bedrooms • Lounge To Rear • Fitted Kitchen • Diner • Ground Floor Cloakroom • GCH System • D/G Where Stated • Block Paved Driveway • No Chain

£123,995

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**KINGSWINFORD****VERONICA ROAD**

- Extended Three Double Bedroom Detached • Lounge/Sitting Room • Bathroom • Toilet Downstairs • Front And Rear Garden • Driveway • Garage • No Upward Chain • In a Cul-De-Sac Location

£185,000

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**ORCHARD STREET**

- End Terraced • Three Bedrooms • Extended Kitchen • Two Reception Rooms • First Floor Bathroom • GCH & D/G

£500 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**FOXDALE DRIVE**

- Two Bedroom Back-To-Back House • Lounge • Kitchen • Gas Central Heated • Double Glazed Where Stated

£475 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**AUTUMN DRIVE**

- Two Bedroom Upper Floor Flat which comprises entrance hall • Bathroom having white suite • Lounge leading into lovely fitted kitchen

£450 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**CHURCHFIELD STREET**

- Three Bedrooms • Three Reception Rooms • Kitchen • GCH System • Double Glazing Where Stated

£475 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

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**DARBYS HILL ROAD**

- Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow • Lounge • Breakfast Kitchen • Bathroom • Cloakroom • Front and Rear Garden • Driveway

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**SELBOURNE ROAD**

- 5 Bedroom Three Storey Townhouse • 2 Reception Rooms • Downstairs Shower Room and First Floor Bathroom • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

£650 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**WESTLEY STREET**

- Three Bedroom Detached • Lounge • Dining Room • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen • Downstairs Guest Cloakroom • En-suite to Master Bedroom • Front and Rear Garden • Driveway • Garage

£600 PCM

DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

**CLARENDON STREET**

- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace • Lounge • Kitchen • Ground Floor Bathroom • Gas Central Heated • Double Glazed Where Stated

£450 PCM

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Lawnswood Road, Wordsley



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Superb 3 bed Detached Dorma Bungalow. Sought After Location. Large Lounge. Double Bedrooms. Bath & Shower. Garden. Driveway & Garage. GCH. UPVC. Value at

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Elmhurst Drive, Kingswinford



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Superb 3 Bed Semi. Renovated Throughout. New Modern Fitted Kitchen. New Bathroom. Double Garage & Garden. GCH. UPVC. Viewing

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NEW
A Spacious and well presented 3 bed Bungalow. Spacious lounge. Modern Kitchen. Bath and Shower. Driveway & Garden. GCH & UPVC. Available Now

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Bath Road, Quarry Bank



NEW
2 Bedroom End Terrace, Quiet location, Large through Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Large Rear Garden, Allocated Parking, GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

£450 pcm

The Broadway, Dudley



NEW
Spacious 3 Bed detached. Large Lounge. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Double Bedrooms. Garden. Driveway & Garage. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

£595pcm

Oak Street, Kingswinford



Spacious Renovated 3 bed Detached. 2 Reception Rooms. New Kitchen & Bathroom. New Carpet & Decor. GCH. UPVC. Driveway. Courtyard at Rear. Value.

£625 pcm

Envile Street, Wall Heath



Superior 4 Bedroom Detached Property. Finished to a Very High Standard. Three Reception Rooms, Study & Day Room, Large Dining Kitchen, Master Bed with Jacuzzi & Wet Room. Must be Viewed. Available Optionally Furnished/Unfurnished

£850 pcm

Kew Drive., Dudley



Spacious 3 bed semi. Quite cul de sac location. Close to all local amenities. Separate Lounge/diner. Modern Kitchen. GCH. UPVC. Garage and Driveway. Large rear Garden. Available now at

£535pcm

Dadford View, Brierley Hill



Modern 2 Bed Semi. Finished to a high Standard. Large Lounge. Fitted Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. GCH. UPVC. Parking. Viewing Essential.

£475 pcm

Moore Street, Brierley Hill



Choice of 2 Superb Refurbished Flats. 1&2 Bed Available. New Kitchens & Bathrooms. GCH. UPVC. Viewing is Highly Advised. From

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Large Detached 4/5 Bed House. 2/3 Reception Rooms. Large Fitted Breakfast Kitchen. Guest WC. Bath & Shower. Double Bedrooms. Garden. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

£595 pcm

King Street, Lye



Spacious Two Bed End Terrace. Two Reception Rooms. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Double Bedrooms. Large Garden. GCH. Value.

£450 pcm

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DUDLEY
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NEW INSTRUCTION
A two bedroom mid terrace house with lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom and garden to rear. Ideal investment as sitting tenant.

£54950

NETHERTON
Baptist End Road



NEW INSTRUCTION
A two bedroom mid terrace house with hallway, lounge, dining room, dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom and garden to rear.

£79,950

NETHERTON
Canal Wharf



NEW INSTRUCTION
ONLY ONE REMAINING. A brand new two bedroom apartment with en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking - located on Canal Wharf, Netherton

From £102,500

Dudley
RUSSELLS HALL ROAD



NEW INSTRUCTION
A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, upstairs bathroom with separate toilet and garden to the rear

£95000 offers over

BRIERLEY HILL
John Street



NEW INSTRUCTION
A modern two bedroom end terrace house with hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, fitted kitchen, driveway and garden to rear.

£115,000

Dudley
MERRYFIELD ROAD



NEW INSTRUCTION
A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen and garden to the rear.

£109,950

Dudley
OLD PARK ROAD



NEW INSTRUCTION
An extended and very impressive three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, large through lounge with dining area, open plan kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, upstairs shower room, driveway and large garden to rear

£134,950

TIPTON
Thunderbolt Way



NEW INSTRUCTION
ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED An amazing three story semi detached house with large dining kitchen, downstairs wc, lounge, master bedroom with en-suite, two further double bedrooms, garden to the rear, garage and driveway

£129,950

RUSSELLS HALL
Merryfield Road



An extended and much improved semi detached house with three double bedrooms, dining kitchen, conservatory, enclosed carport, utility room, low maintenance rear garden and driveway

£124950

DUDLEY
North Street



Four bedroom mid terrace house with two reception rooms, kitchen and two bathrooms, garden and double garage to rear

£99,950

TIVIDALE
Wheatsheaf Road



Three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom and garden to rear

£99,950

TIVIDALE
Regent Avenue



A traditional three bedroom semi detached property presented excellently throughout. The property has recently been refurbished throughout and briefly comprises of lounge, large dining kitchen, conservatory, downstairs shower room, utility area, upstairs bathroom, decked patio area, enclosed rear garden and driveway to the front.

£129,950

DUDLEY
Wolverhampton Street



A detached three storey double property. The property briefly comprises of: Double fronted floor area (commercial until August 2012) with wc, hallway, large lounge and open plan kitchen, laundry room and bathroom, shower room and seven bedrooms,

£190,000

BRIERLEY HILL
Hordern Crescent



A spacious and much improved four bedroom semi detached house with lounge, large dining kitchen, conservatory, utility room, downstairs bedroom with en-suite area, extensive garage, driveway and gardens to front and rear

£154,950

TIPTON
Park Lane East



Three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, downstairs bathroom and yard area to the rear

£74,950

OLDBURY
The Moorings



A one bedroom end terrace house with open plan lounge and kitchen, upstairs bathroom, allocated parking and a garden to rear

£78,950

DUDLEY
Dibdale Road



A two bedroom mid terrace house with two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, recently refitted throughout and a garden to the rear

£89,950

BILSTON
Lees Terrace



A semi detached dormer bungalow with kitchen, utility, lounge, two bedrooms, dining room, shower/WC, garden to rear and driveway to front

£94,950

NETHERTON
Swan Street



A four bedroom spacious home with two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, downstairs wc, garage, driveway and garden to rear

£139,950 offers over

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**BRIERLEY HILL
HILLCREST AVENUE**

This delightfully presented, improved, extended Traditionally styled 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached residence provides gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation pleasantly situated overlooking sports ground to the rear in this ever popular address. With charm and briefly comprising: Hall, spacious Lounge, separate Dining Room, further Sitting Room, attractively fitted Kitchen, large Laundry/Utility with Downers W.C. off, 3 excellent Bedrooms, large fitted Bathroom with corner bath and shower, pleasant good sized mature rear Garden with private outlook and back paved driveway for 2 cars

Offers around £139,950

**BRIERLEY HILL
ULLSWATER RISE**

This superbly presented, improved Modern 2 Bedroom Link Detached residence provides deceptively spacious gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the discerning young family or professional couple in this popular cul-de-sac. Briefly comprises: Porch, Reception Hall, Stylish Lounge, Attractively Refitted Kitchen opening to Conservatory/Dining Area, 2 Good Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with shower, larger than average Side Garage, pleasant low maintenance Rear Gardens and Driveway for 4 cars to the Front.

Offers around £129,950

**KINGSWINFORD
STANDHILLS ROAD**

This 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached residence provides deceptively spacious gas centrally heated and mostly Upvc double glazed accommodation in this popular and convenient address and although requiring certain upgrading and modernisation offers tremendous further potential. Briefly comprises: Hall, spacious Lounge, separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, side Lobby with Useful Stores off, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, pleasant landscaped rear Gardens with private outlook and lawned fore garden.

Offers around £117,500

**BRIERLEY HILL
MOOR STREET**

This delightfully presented Modern 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment was constructed just over 12 months ago by Barrat Homes to an exacting specification and provides spacious well planned double glazed accommodation with electric heating ideal for the discerning First Time Buyer, Professional Couple or Retired. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the accommodation includes: security controlled Entrance, Hall, spacious Lounge leading to superbly fitted Kitchen with Built In Oven and Hob, 2 good Bedrooms, Attractive Bathroom with Shower, Communal Rear Gardens and Allocated Parking

Offers around £104,950

**PENSNETT
PRIMROSE PARK**

Pleasantly situated in a "tucked away" corner of this popular residential development for the over 60's, this delightful Modern One bedroomed End bungalow provides well planned gas centrally heated and double glazed, warden controlled accommodation which gives peace of mind to the owner and to their family. Main security controlled entrance through "courtyard" to Reception Porch/Hall, L-shaped Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, attractive Conservatory, Double Bedroom, Fitted Bathroom with shower, Communal Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Car Parking Area with secure gates.

Offers around £79,950

**QUARRY BANK
DUNNS BANK**

This traditional 3 Bedroom Detached provides spacious, extended gas centrally heated and mostly double glazed accommodation pleasantly situated in this sought after address. Hall, Spacious Extended Lounge, Conservatory, Separate Dining Room, Downstairs W.C., Laundry/Utility, Large Extended Breakfast Kitchen, 3 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Useful Large Loft Room, Side Garage, Driveway for 3/4 cars and Pleasant Landscaped Rear Gardens. BUILDING PLOT INCLUDED WITH DETAILED PLANNING FOR 2/3 BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH ACCESS OFF A19 ROAD (TO REAR).

Offers around £220,000

**KINGSWINFORD
BEECHES CLOSE**

Most pleasantly situated in this popular cul-de-sac, this 3 Bedroomed Semi-Detached residence provides spacious extended gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed family accommodation which is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and briefly comprises: Porch, Hall, Lounge, separate Dining Room, extended L-shaped Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, refitted Downstairs Wet Room with Utility space, 3 Bedrooms, attractively refitted Bathroom with shower, side Garage and pleasant landscaped rear gardens with southerly facing aspect.

Offers around £159,950

**KINGSWINFORD
RANGWAYS ROAD**

Pleasantly situated on this ever popular development this modern 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow provides spacious gas centrally heated and part secondary double glazed accommodation which briefly comprises: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Inner Hall, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Fitted bathroom with shower attachment, Side Carport, Garage and low maintenance Level Rear Gardens and Driveway for two cars to the front.

Offers around £127,500

**MERRY HILL
THE EMBANKMENT**

Providing a cosmopolitan style of living adjacent to the Merry Hill Centre, this superb, Ground Floor former show apartment, provides spacious UPVC double glazed, centrally heated accommodation ideal for the modern professional or contemporary couple, and should be particularly pleasing to all age groups. Briefly comprises: Video secure Entrance, Reception Hall, spacious Lounge with open plan fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 good Bedrooms (Master with Shower En-suite) main Bathroom and SECURE PARKING in underground car park.

Offers around £124,950

**BRIERLEY HILL
BENT STREET**

5% DEPOSIT PAID BY VENDOR! This superbly and stylishly refurbished 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached residence provides extremely generous proportioned gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the discerning First Time buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and very convenient address. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the accommodation includes: Attractive Lounge, Lounge, separate Dining Room, Separate Dining Room, Superb Large refitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downstairs W.C., 3 Good Bedrooms (Master with Shower En-Suite off), fitted House Bathroom and enclosed Rear Gardens.

Offers around £109,950

**PENSNETT
SWAN STREET**

This attractively presented considerably extended 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached provides extremely deceptively spacious gas centrally heated and mostly UPVC double glazed family accommodation pleasantly situated with private outlook in the popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Briefly comprises: Spacious Lounge, Large L-shaped Kitchen with adjoining Dining area, Downstairs W.C., 3 Excellent Bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobe), Attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, and Enclosed Rear Garden.

Offers around £109,950

**BROCKMOOR
NEWTOWN**

Enjoying a pleasant position in this popular address overlooking the grounds of the church, this delightfully presented Modern 2 Bedroom Intermediate Townhouse provides well planned stylishly appointed accommodation with UPVC double glazing ideal for the discerning first time buyer and available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the accommodation includes: Attractive Lounge, attractive Dining Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with shower, Enclosed Low Maintenance Rear Garden and Gravelled Front Garden. No Pets/DSS/Smokers.

Offers around £99,950

**PENSNETT
KIRKHAM GARDENS**

Pleasantly situated in this popular Cul-de-sac, this Attractively Presented Modern 2 Bedroom Intermediate Townhouse provides gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer. Briefly comprises: Hall, attractive Lounge, superb Ref-fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Enclosed Rear Gardens, Driveway for two cars to the front and additional Drive/Parking Space close by.

Offers around £99,950

**PENSNETT
CHAPEL COURT**

Superbly presented, stylishly improved Modern one Bedroom Second Floor Flat forms part of this attractive and well kept custom built block close to amenities and Russell's Hall Hospital and representing a superb opportunity for the first time buyer. Briefly comprises: Communal Service Entrance, Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom with fitted wardrobe, Superb Refitted Bathroom with 'Y' shaped bath and shower, Communal Gardens and Allocated Car Parking Space.

Offers around £74,950

**BRIERLEY HILL
WILLIAM STREET**

Well presented deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Intermediate Terrace★ Gas Central Heating, 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W/C★ Very Convenient Location. No Pets/DSS/Smokers. Available Immediately. Deposit £600

£425 PCM EX

**RUSSELLS HALL
LANGSTONE ROAD**

Semi-detached property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, front and rear gardens, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.

£510 pcm

**BROCKMOOR
PHEASANT STREET**

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered

£525 pcm

**PENSNETT
TANSEY GREEN ROAD**

End Terrace property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage at Rear, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating

£510 pcm

**KINGSWINFORD
LABURNUM ROAD**

End terrace property. Lounge, kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom, off road parking, rear garden.

£460 pcm

**KINGSWINFORD
COT LANE**

Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£695 pcm

**WALL HEATH
ALBION PARADE**

Maisonette. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, double glazing, parking, carpets and curtains. No pets.

£495 pcm

**GORNAL
REDHALL ROAD**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£650 pcm

**COSELEY
ELIOT CROFT**

Town house property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with shower, two bedrooms, gas central heating, carpets and curtains, double glazing. Unfurnished. DSS considered.

£495 pcm

**COSELEY
SALCOMBE GROVE**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£545 pcm

**WORDSLEY
BELLS LANE**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£560 pcm

**PENSNETT
HIGH STREET**

End Terrace Property, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Cellar, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, UNFURNISHED

£430 pcm

**KINGSWINFORD
MANOR PARK**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£575 pcm

**WORDSLEY
SALCOMBE GROVE**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£545 pcm

**WORDSLEY
BELLS LANE**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£560 pcm

**PENSNETT
HIGH STREET**

End Terrace Property, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Cellar, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, UNFURNISHED

£430 pcm

**KINGSWINFORD
MANOR PARK**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£575 pcm

**WORDSLEY
EAGLE PLACE**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£595 pcm

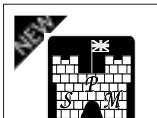
**GREAT BRIDGE
EAGLE PLACE**

Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

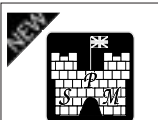
£370 pcm

**WALL HEATH
ALBERT STREET**

Mid terrace property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, partial double glazing, front and rear gardens, off road parking, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.

£575 pcm

**WOMBOURNE
FORGE VALLEY WAY**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front, Side & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£650 pcm

**SEDGLEY
ROWAN ROAD**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, UNFURNISHED, Front & Rear Gardens

£525 pcm

**BRIERLEY HILL
BELL STREET**

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Conservatory, Large Cellar, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains

£425 pcm

**KINGSWINFORD
QUEEN STREET**

Large first floor flat. Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, one double bedroom, gas central heating, bathroom with walk in cupboard, double glazing, FULLY FURNISHED, Carpets & Curtains, Maintained Gardens. No DSS.

£475 pcm

**WORDSLEY
STREAM ROAD**

End terrace property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, out buildings, bathroom with shower, two double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets & curtains, Unfurnished, Rear gardens.

£525 pcm

**BRIERLEY HILL
TALBOTS LANE**

Large showroom/workshop 850 sq ft, additional showroom/office on first floor 600 sq ft, with kitchen and toilet facilities and parking for six cars.

£1000 pcm

**BRIERLEY HILL
DADFORD VIEW**

Cluster Home. Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, unfurnished, off road parking, double glazing. DSS considered.

£460 pcm

**GORNAL
WOOD ROAD**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£560 pcm

**STOURBRIDGE
PENFIELDS ROAD**

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear Gardens, Furnished, Off Road Parking

£625 pcm
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Mini really does mean business

FOR AN IMPRESSIVE ninth year in a row, Mini's commitment to manufacturing frugal and fast premium small cars has been recognised as the Mini Hatch was named Supermini of the Year by BusinessCar Magazine.

Mini's unbeatable mix of performance, low running costs and CO2 emissions, coupled with high residual values are just some of the reasons why it has proven to be so successful with business car users.

Jochen Goller, director Mini UK, said "We are delighted to receive this prestigious recognition from BusinessCar."

"The corporate sales channel has increased in importance for Mini since the recent launch of the fourth member of the Mini family. The new four-door Mini Countryman has already generated

huge interest in the fleet market amongst buyers seeking the unique Mini driving experience combined with increased space and practicality."

BusinessCar editor Paul Barker said: "Normally it would be incredible to see a car hold onto its title for nine years, but with the Mini's unbeatable running costs and driver appeal, it's no surprise to see it take the Supermini of the Year Award for a ninth straight year."

Incredible

"The excellent residual values and economy mean it's a small car that makes big sense for business."

As with all Mini models, both the Mini One D and Mini Cooper D comply with the EU5 emission standard and they achieve the same low fuel consumption of 74.3mpg and CO2

emissions of 99 g/km.

These values are an absolute record for any series production car produced by the BMW Group.

In addition to the high efficiency of the diesel engine in the Mini One D and Cooper D, under the Minimalism umbrella both cars employ a host of fuel-saving and emission-lowering technology including Brake Energy Regeneration, Auto Start-Stop, Gearshift Indicator and Electromechanical Power Steering.

All of these technologies and the standard six-speed manual gearbox play a role in eking the most out of every drop of fuel while also minimising the tailpipe emissions.

The BusinessCar Awards are the only awards in the market decided solely by the readers of the magazine and website.

Performance, low running costs and high residual values made the car Supermini of the Year



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03	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB Met Recl. PAS, EW, AC, CD, 7 Seats.....	£3499
06	RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 DDD V1600 Half Leather; Alloys, AC, PAS, EW.....	£3499
34	ROVER 25 1.4 81 5-door: Met Grey PAS, EW, AC, CD.....	£2699
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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecoLogic 1.6 GSX MT; manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecoLogic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. *Free leather offer ends 31st March 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. *Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply.



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07 57 VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN CLUB 1.9 CDTi CDV Van. Silver, 43,153 miles	£5,995	£193.71
07 07 VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN SPORTIVE 1.7 CDTi CDV Van. Black, 43,550 miles	£6,495	£209.87
07 07 VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN SPORTIVE 1.7 CDTi CDV Van. Black, 43,550 miles	£6,495	£209.87
09 09 VAUXHALL COMBO 1700 1.7 CDTi CDV Van. White, 25,776 miles	£6,995	£226.03

	RETAIL	Nil Deposit Finance Lease
MEDIUM VANS		
07 07 VAUXHALL VIVARO SWB 2702 2.0CDTi 115ps MCV Van. SWB, low roof, White, 59,058 miles	£6,495	£209.87

	RETAIL	Nil Deposit Finance Lease
LARGE VANS		
08 08 VAUXHALL VIVARO SWB 2702 2.0CDTi 115ps MCV Van. SWB, low roof, White, 54,115 miles	£6,995	£226.03
08 08 FORD TRANSIT 260 SWB 2.0 TDCi 85ps MCV Van. Medium roof, White, 51,245 miles	£7,495	£242.18
08 08 VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2900 2.0 CDTi 90ps MCV Van. LWB, low roof, White, 57,989 miles	£7,495	£242.18
08 08 VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2900 2.0 CDTi 90ps MCV Van. LWB, low roof, White, 54,247 miles	£7,495	£242.18
08 58 VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2900 2.0 CDTi 115ps MCV Van. LWB, low roof, White, 20,500 miles	£8,895	£290.65
09 09 VAUXHALL VIVARO SWB 2700 2.0 CDTi 115ps MCV Van. SWB, low roof, Silver, 23,000 miles	£9,895	£322.96

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4X4 PICK-UPS		
07 07 MITSUBISHI L200 TROJAN 2.5 TDDi 4x4 Pick-up Manual. Black, 6,678 miles	£9,995	£322.96
07 57 NISSAN NAVARA AVENTURA 1.5 TDCi Auto 4x4 Pick-up. Black, 43,221	£12,995	£419.90
09 59 FORD RANGER THUNDER 2.5 TDCi 4x4 Pick-up Manual. Blue, 21,326 miles	£15,495	£500.68
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VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI LIFE 56 Reg, Grey Metallic, Air Con, 39k, SH	£6495
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Motor Market Celebrates 1000th Sale

Cradley Heath based car dealership Motor Market Limited reached the milestone of selling its 1000th car this month since moving to its Newtown Lane site 3 years ago.

The landmark sale was a 55 Reg Peugeot 307 1.4S to Miss Margaret Cooper of Brierley Hill and was celebrated by the Motor Market team presenting the proud new owner with flowers, champagne and a meal for 2 at a local restaurant.



Steve Hampton, Motor Market Sales Executive
Margaret Cooper, 1000th Customer
Debbie Parsons, Close Motor Finance

Miss Cooper said 'It doesn't surprise me the success the business is having. I originally purchased a Peugeot 206 from them 3 years ago; it's been great and never let me down. I was really pleased with the value for money and customer service I received. I had exactly the same experience this time and the extra items for being their 1000th sale were a nice added bonus.'

Motor Market specialises in providing quality used vehicles between the £2995 and £6995 price ranges. Partnerships with major finance companies such as Close Motor Finance, Santander and Barclays also ensure they can provide competitive finance wherever it's required. All vehicles are provided with a 72 point pre delivery inspection, 12 months MOT and RAC mechanical warranties.

Owned by local brothers Dean and Adam Bridge, Motor Market is rapidly developing a reputation for first class customer care and after sales support. Adam commented, 'From the outset we have always believed it vital we provide exceptional customer service, we see it as the key factor to help distinguish us from our competition. We are really pleased to now see that more than 70% of our business comes from recommendation, referrals or repeat customers, which is hopefully evidence the approach is working.'

Adam went on to say, 'Don't get me wrong despite the most thorough pre delivery inspections, we sometimes still have problems, just like everyone else,

its inevitable and unfortunately a fact of life with used vehicles, but what I can say with absolute confidence is, we never walk away from a problem and we will always put it right.'

Motor Market has qualified in house mechanics and its own workshops equipped with the latest diagnostic equipment for repairs, service and MOT work; along with branded courtesy cars to keep customers on the road should they be required.

Alongside their commitment to customer service the other key policy that Motor Market always aims to deliver is 'value for money'. The business works hard to keep its prices very competitive and provide the keenest deals available.



Adam & Dean Bridge, Motor Market Directors

Dean commented, 'We were born and bred here in the Black Country, so we understand how people quite rightly demand and deserve value for their money. You will never see sharp suited salesmen, fancy showrooms, leather suites or plasma TV's within our dealership as we recognise these things aren't important to customers when compared to permanently low prices and receiving the best value possible.'

With such a very clear focus on delivering customer satisfaction it's easy to see how Motor Market is developing such an enviable reputation within the Black Country area. Its success has led to the recent acquisition of the ex Crown Works site adjacent to its existing premises, where the additional space will see its stock holding capacity increase to 120+ cars during the early part of 2011.

So with the powerful combination of increased choice, great value and excellent customer service Motor Market looks very well positioned to serve the local used car market for many years to come.

Motor Market

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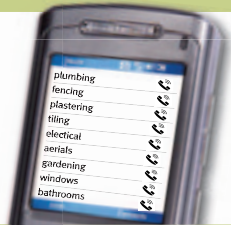
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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENSE
Alison James of 101 Pockley Lane, Coseley South West Midlands, B64 6JF is applying for a Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. The license will be valid from 1st March 2011 to 31st March 2012. The license will be valid for the following categories: 1. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 2. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 3. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 4. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 5. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 6. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 7. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 8. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 9. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 10. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 11. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 12. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 13. Goods Vehicle Operators License for a 7.5 tonne van. 14. 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SPORT

Change of scene, but goals are still winging in



HASBURY Rangers under-12s are setting out for new victories against fresh opposition this season.

They won division two of the Stourbridge under-11 league last season and have switched to the Stourport

league for a change of teams and venues. The team has won eight of its 11 games so far and is the top scoring side with 98 goals.

The Stourport league has now separated with the top five teams playing

out the premier league for the rest of the season, starting on Sunday. The club has also organised a tour to Selsey, near Portsmouth at Whitsun.

Team, back from left, Harry Field, Ben Gainham, Zac Smith, Ross

Pritchard, Redford Palmer, George Taylor, Rhys Webb and Jimmy Williams. Front, Connor Hoban, Josh Williams, Jordan Harris, Sean Hewitt, Adam Smith, Jake Humphreys and Luke Brettell.

Late rush of tries as Saxons claim win

Stourbridge Saxons 36 Blackheath 16

THREE TRIES in the final quarter of this enthralling Stourton Park clash saw the Saxons secure their first win of 2011, wrapping up a bonus point in the process. Neil Mitchell's side could not have wished for a better start, scoring after just four minutes when James Rodley dived on the ball after a catch and drive move from the pack.

But galvanised the visitors who controlled the next 30 minutes, writes David Laurence.

Chances missed in draw

Stourbridge 0
Salisbury City 0

THE Glassboys had to settle for a share of the spoils with title-chasing Salisbury City.

The visitors from Wiltshire enjoyed more possession but the home side had the better chances in an absorbing clash.

Salisbury had the better of a frantic first 15 minutes, but Stourbridge went close when Ben Billingham's free-kick led to Jamie Oliver having a shot blocked.

With the ball not properly cleared, Nathan Bennett hooked a shot that ran narrowly wide of Tommy Smith's right-hand post.

The visitors carved out their best chance of the half in the 28th minute as player-manager Darrell Clarke set up Adam Kelly who spooned his dipping shot wide.

Ten minutes later, Sam Rock combined well with Ryan Rowe but his side-footed finish was saved by Smith.

Stourbridge made a good start to the second half with Rock flashing a shot wide on 55 minutes from just outside the box.

Salisbury's Ben Adelsbury went close with a long range effort over the bar.

The Glassboys almost broke the deadlock in the 76th minute as Smith came to his side's rescue again to keep out a shot from Linden Dovey.



James Rodley scores the opening try for Stourbridge with Ben Hughes on hand to assist

Miller scores at double as Hawks dodge the Bullets

Boys League
Halas Hawks East 4
Brierley Hill Bullets 0

HALAS HAWKS under-nines East entertained Brierley Hill Bullets West and gave a fine performance right from the off.

They pegged back the Bullets for most of the first half with Oliver Miller giving Halas a half-time lead.

The second half carried on as the first had finished, Halas in adding three more goals through Tom Baker, Miller and Declan Weaver – his first strike for the club.

Halas players of the match were Baker and Louie Jones.

Perton 3 Halas Hawks 1

The under-12s West fell to their first defeat of 2011 in a tight game against a plucky Perton side.

Halas started well and went in front through Ellis Meredith. Although they continued to create chances they failed to convert them.

Perton drew level before the break and the second half was a

similar story, with Halas creating chances but not turning them into goals and being punished on two further occasions. Home player of the match went to Ryan Haycock.

Gornal Colts East 4
Halas Hawks 1

The under-13s had the best of the play against a very strong Gornal team, before conceding a goal.

Halas fought back to equalise with a goal from Jack Guest before half time and continued to play some good football in the second period.

But Gornal's strength in depth began to show as they ran out 4-1 winners.

Halas player of the match went to goalkeeper Charlie Bagley for an outstanding display.

Halas Hawks East 1
Withymoor 0

A Josh March lob after a flowing Halas move secured a 1-0 victory for the under-14s East against Withymoor Colts.

In a tight game, March's strike proved to be the difference between the teams to keep Hawks second in the league.

Halas Hawks 3 Kewford 3

Halas fell three goals behind after only 10 minutes.

But they fought back to secure a 3-3 with goals from Dan Scarrett, Danny Hodges and debutant, Joe Prosser. Their player of the match went to Rhys Edwards.

Gornal Panthers 1
Halas Hawks 3

The under-16s beat Gornal Panthers 3-1 with goals from Guy Millward, Scott Pope and Ben Hughes.

Wombourne 0 Halas Hawks 9

The under-17s continued their unbeaten run since the beginning of November with a big win at Wombourne – all nine goals coming in the second half.

Halas had most of the game from the kick-off but could not find a way through.

A couple of half-time changes helped; they scored from the kick-off and then laid siege to Wombourne's goal.

Scorers were Mark Perry (3), Ryan Howard (2), Anthony Keeling, Brad Hickman, Adam Reece and keeper Charlie Price who scored from the penalty spot.

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sport

Golden girls in medals triumph

JUDO STARS Sarah Biles and Charis Hancock proved unstoppable at the Midlands Open Championships, both taking gold medals.

Three more Samurai players added bronzes to give the club a good haul at the tough two-day British selection event at Walsall.

Biles was up against most of the same players from the British Junior Trials the previous weekend, where she had taken bronze. Here she was on better form, producing a superb throw for maximum points in her first bout and then dominating the opponent who had finished fifth in the trials in her second.

Although she conceded an early penalty in the semi-final, a neat throw put her in front and she saw the contest out comfortably.

Tentative

In the final she came up with a maximum point throw against the other Trials bronze medalist to take the gold.

Hancock, a touch tentative at the Trials, was anything but at Walsall and won each of her three bouts by maximum points in short order. She attacked well to both sides, moved fluidly and showed improved transition into groundwork. She also picked up points towards a black belt.

Hamish Beaumont started well in the boys lightweight, spectacular throws taking him to the semi-finals despite moving up a weight category. A foot sweep downed him for maximum points but he came back to win the bronze.

Twins Sally and Rachel Moon also reached the semis where both lost but took the two bronzes in their category.

Bryony Griffiths finished fifth as did Frankie Marston while Brendan Crummy pulled a back muscle and had to withdraw.

JAK'S THE LAD IN NARROW WIN

CAMP HILL pushed Dudley Kingswinford all the way at Heathbrook – but the league leaders held on to maintain their 100 per cent record.

DK saw their 24-6 half-time lead obliterated as the visitors stormed ahead by a single point, but a try from Jak Davis regained the advantage and the hosts then saw out the remaining 11 minutes.

In their previous 15 matches this season DK had dished out plenty of thrashings, but one of their tightest victories was the 21-13 success at Camp Hill, so they knew that a tough encounter was likely.

However in a productive first half they made a mockery of that theory with four tries.

After the visitors took the lead with an early Ian Briggs penalty the hosts scored a fine individual try through Gareth Bown, who took a Jon Higgins pass to jink his way over the line.

Simon Fletcher then

Dudley Kingswinford 29 Camp Hill 25

narrowly missed sending Davis free down the wing, but it was 12-3 soon after when the pack drove towards the line and Stefan Thorp crossed.

On 28 minutes the constant DK pressure yielded another try with Shaun Griffiths power-

ing over in the corner.

The home side's bonus try arrived four minutes later when Higgins darted in to score, with a Bown conversion and a further Briggs penalty making it 24-6 at half time.

Despite the scoreline Camp Hill were by no means finished and the second half was a very different game.

DK were penalised at virtually every break-down by youthful referee Dave Huson, the constant reversal of possession appearing to affect their fluidity.

Drilled

One such penalty was drilled deep into the DK 22 and the second row Jan Van Der Walt was driven over to bring the score back to 24-11.

DK then squandered chances and paid the price when Camp Hill fly-half James Oliver directed an astute cross-kick for centre Jon Ford to score out wide, Briggs' conversion further cutting the deficit.

Two minutes later the DK cover was found wanting as right winger Robert Obeng-Manu streaked clear to score in the corner and the watching faithful closed their eyes as the conversion put Camp Hill ahead.

Davis saved the home side on 69 minutes with a superb 60-metre solo run and although Camp Hill laid siege there was no way back.



A contrast of joy and despair on the players' faces as Gareth Bown scores. Pictures: Ian Jackson



Right by the sticks! Jon Higgins is all smiles as he crosses for Dudley Kingswinford

Heathens preparing for a tilt at the Shield

DUDLEY Heathens will be looking for early silverware when the 2011 speedway season gets under way.

The National League Shield has been introduced to the sport's third tier – and Dudley, last season's table-toppers, will do battle with champions Buxton for the trophy.

The Heathens are one of nine teams in this year's National League, joining existing sides Buxton, the Isle of Wight, King's Lynn, Newport and Scunthorpe.

Stoke are also in, having dropped down from the Premier. Their clashes with the Heathens will have a particularly nostalgic tinge for followers of the red, green and white. Stoke's Loomer Road played host to the old Cradley side in 1996, its season of exile when the Dudley Wood stadium was shut.

Also in are new entrants Belle Vue, who will be running a Colts side in the NL alongside their Elite League septet.

Another old name from the sport's glory

days, Hackney, is revived with the Hawks sharing their fixtures between Lakeside and Rye House.

A potential promotion at Middlesbrough applied to run but was refused permission.

The National League pairs will run at Newport, the Fours at Stoke and the individual riders' championship returns to Rye House where Dudley's Lee Smart won a famous victory last season. Team building has been set at a 40-point limit.

Sports finally Trumped

Bustleholme 4 Dudley Sports 2

FOUR second-half goals gave Bustleholme revenge for the defeat inflicted by Dudley Sports back in August.

The hosts made hard work of clinching victory despite playing some decent football as they battled back from a two-goal deficit.

Sports led at the break after Kevin Vogely was gifted two goals.

A change of keepers for the home side during the interval saw Jake Bedford make his debut although in truth he didn't have a save to make as Bustleholme hit back.

They dragged themselves back into the contest on 70 minutes when an Ash Grainger corner found Mark Willet who finished well.

In the 82nd minute, after good work from Connor Scott, substitute Ryan Trumpeter lashed home a 25-yard piledriver.

Three minutes later Trumpeter headed in his second and Matty Jukes fired home just before the whistle.

Yeltz fall close to bottom

Weymouth 3 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN dropped to within a point of the foot of the table after being outclassed by Weymouth.

The home side went for the jugular from the outset with Warren Byerley heading against the crossbar from Jamie Beasley's fourth minute corner. Ben Gerring was then thwarted by a fine stop from Halesowen goalkeeper Simon Flower as the hosts forced eight corners in the first half-hour.

The Terras eventually went ahead in the 39th minute when debutant Charlie Clough headed home Beasley's cross. Byerley curled home the second got the third from the penalty spot.

The Dudley Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford on Thursday, February 3, 2011.

First Slam and Whiley now wants more

WHEELCHAIR tennis ace Jordanne Whiley is thirsting for more Grand Slam action after her debut in Australia.

The 18-year-old is in Sydney this week for the second of back-to-back tournaments after making her Grand Slam bow at Melbourne Park.

Whiley, from Halesowen, put up two fine efforts in her singles and doubles matches after receiving a late wild card entry into the elite field of eight.

The world No 10 had game points for a 5-2 lead in her singles match against Dutch world No 4 Jiske Griffioen, but the Dutchwoman's experience finally told as she recorded a 6-4 6-1 victory.

"I was so nervous in my first match," said Whiley, who got her spot after British number one Lucy Shuker pulled out through injury.

"It was such a big experience and my hands

Wheelchair tennis

were visibly shaking at times.

"I didn't control some of my shots as well as I would have liked, especially on the big points, but I can take a lot of positives away from my first Grand Slam and it won't be a completely new experience for me next time."

The doubles saw Whiley and her Australian partner Daniela di Toro of Australia have set points before their top seeded Dutch opponents Esther Vergeer and Sharon Walraven pulled clear, 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

Old boy Swann is back to haunt the Robins

MENSAH KINCH and Mark Swann came back to haunt their former club with two goals apiece as AFC Wulfrunians hammered Dudley Town.

The last time Kinch and Swann found themselves on the same scoresheet was a year ago when Dudley won 3-1 victory at champions-elect Ellesmere Rangers.

AFC Wulfrunians 6 Dudley Town 1

However, their latest double act led to a less pleasant outcome for the Robins.

Neil Perks' rebuilding job continued with the inclusion of no fewer than five debutants: Goalkeeper Matt Rodgers, defenders

Joe O'Neil and Chris Whitaker, midfielder Greg Thornton and Croatian-born forward Dreniz Bala who linked up with the recently returned Ricki Dudley.

The first half turned out to be an entertaining contest between two evenly matched sides.

Bala saw his shot hooked off the line by Graham Ashton and Matt

Martin's looping header agonisingly landed on the roof of the net.

It was Kinch who grabbed the first of the afternoon for Wulfrunians when a fine pass from midfield freed him on the right and he fired past Rodgers.

Just before the break Dudley were dealt a cruel blow when a defensive mix-up between Denis

Robinson, Thornton and Rodgers allowed Kinch to put a foot in and make it 2-0.

Swann netted against his former club just two minutes after the restart.

But from there on Town rallied and cut the deficit on 51 minutes when Ricky Martin lashed home. However the final half-hour of

the game turned into a nightmare for the visitors, with substitute Ade Bandle first ending the contest to make it 4-1.

Worse was to follow with 11 minutes remaining when Bandle grabbed his brace after some trickery from livewire substitute Nathaniel Lawson. Swann headed in the sixth.

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